



Sleepovers
keeping parents
up all night
section two page 6

Titanic effort
how she came
to sail again
section two page 22

Young minds
how they recall
traumatic events
section two page 2

THE INDEPENDENT

3,050 MONDAY 29 JULY 1996 WEATHER: Sunshine and showers 40p (IR 45p)

Jet wreck supports bomb theory

Silence from perpetrators as evidence of terrorism grows

DAVID USBORNE
New York
PHIL DAVISON
Atlanta

US investigators were yesterday moving towards the view that the explosion of an airliner 12 days ago was the result of an explosive device, as the nation reeled from Saturday's bomb at the Olympics.

Investigators into the crash of TWA 800 said they had found the front section of the aircraft on the ocean floor a full mile-and-a-half away from the rest of the wreckage. The discovery of the forward segment of the aircraft, which went down south of Long Island with 230 on board, suggests that it was severed from the rest of the aircraft by a violent explosion. The most likely cause was thought to be a terrorist bomb placed in the airliner's forward cargo hold.

The twin disasters have cast a pall of anxiety across the whole of America, which, de-

Inside
Atlanta bombing
Page 8
The making of an American terrorist
Page 15

spite the Oklahoma bomb last year, remains unaccustomed to terrorism. Adding to the tension was an unprecedented series of bomb scares occurring in different corners of the country in the few hours after the detonation of the pipe bomb in Centennial Olympic Park.

Train services were disrupted for several hours down the length of the east coast after police received a bomb threat by telephone aimed at Amtrak's Union Station in Washington DC. In Seattle, Washington, ferry services in Puget Sound were similarly suspended and two buildings were evacuated after two telephone warnings.

A final determination that TWA 800 was indeed the target of a criminal conspiracy has not yet been made, and will not be, until investigators formally rule out massive mechanical failure as the cause. But the assumption that a bomb exploded on board the plane was strongly reinforced by the discovery of its forward section. Pan Am 103 was downed in 1988 by a bomb



In front of all great women, there is a man holding them back



Against the tide: A track official gets in the way of runners at the start of the women's Olympic marathon yesterday. Fatuma Roba, of Ethiopia, won the race. Photograph: Reuters

False starts end Christie's 100m dream

ADAM SZRETER

Linford Christie's defence of his Olympic 100 metres title ended in the most frustrating way imaginable when he was disqualified from the final after two false starts in the early hours of yesterday morning, and Canada's Donovan Bailey took the gold medal in a world record time of 9.84sec.

Christie initially refused to accept the decision, remaining by his blocks until, football-style, he was shown the red card by the tournament referee. Bailey, the world champion, took full advantage of the situation, edging the two favourites, Frankie Fredericks of Namibia and Ato Boldon of Trinidad, into second and third places.

Christie was understandably distraught, but after he had had time to recover from the shock he said: "I'm feeling pretty rotten but I can't go around moping. I have a responsibility as team captain. I can't let how I feel reflect on anyone else. I also have the 200m to go for and you can bet your bottom dollar I will be giving it my best shot."

Jonathan Edwards, Britain's best hope for an athletics gold medal, had to settle for silver in the triple jump after the American Kenny Harrison set an Olympic record of 18.09 metres. Edwards, the world record holder and the only other man to have jumped over 18 metres, managed a season's best 17.88m. Edwards, a deeply religious man, said: "Silver may seem like failure, but to me it was a great success. I am chuffed to bits. I have come out of this with something better than gold. I have come out of it a better person and with a better relationship with God and that's important to me."

Earlier Harrison's girlfriend, Gail Davies, narrowly retained her 100m title as she and Merlene Ottey of Jamaica were both given times of 10.94. The times were then broken down further and the American was given the gold by five thousandths of a second.

Sally Gunnell safely negotiated the first round in the defence of her 400m hurdles title yesterday, but Liz McColgan finished a disappointing 16th in the women's marathon.

There was a bonus for Great Britain and in particular the swimmer Nick Gillingham, who was awarded a bronze medal after Russia's Andrei Korneyev was yesterday stripped of third place in the men's 200m breaststroke for failing a drugs test. Reports, Sports Section

Police chief wants legalised brothels

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

One of Britain's most senior police officers has called for the legalisation of brothels.

In an interview with the Independent, Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire police, described the current laws on prostitution as "absurd". He said licensed brothels would get prostitutes off the streets, allow thorough health checks and could be taxed. They would also help stop children becoming involved in the sex industry.

"As a society we have to start thinking in different ways. I think the time has come to have legalised brothels that can be properly controlled," he said.

His proposals, which have growing support among sections of the police, were immediately condemned by the chairman of the House of Commons' Home Affairs Select Committee who said they were the first step towards a moral decline and would encourage more women to become prostitutes.

At present, it is only illegal for a prostitute to work in a public place. A woman selling sex on her own in a single premise is not breaking the law. Only when two or more women work from a private property is it deemed a brothel, which is illegal.

By outlawing some forms of prostitution we are operating double standards. It's either morally wrong or it's not," Mr Hellawell said. "From a moral standpoint I don't support it and would rather it did not happen, but it does, and I think the legal controls we currently have are not realistic."

"I think we ought to have legally controlled brothels. We



Labour MPs seek 'independence'

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

A rising number of backbench Labour MPs are backing a plan to issue a "declaration of independence" from the party leadership, saying they will retain the right to organise and speak for themselves if Tony Blair forms the next government.

Several MPs intend to respond to Mr Blair's crackdown on internal dissent by insisting on their right to "democratic debate". Donald Dewar, Labour chief whip, is sending warning letters to three MPs after their allegations last week that shadow Cabinet elections were "nobbled". Mr Dewar has threatened to withdraw the whip from persistent rebels - suspending their membership of the parliamentary party.

Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, fought back at the weekend by writing to fellow MPs inviting them to set up a "1996 Committee" of Labour backbenchers modelled on the Conservative 1922 Committee. This would provide a direct channel for the views of backbenchers to a Labour government.

Mr Flynn told the Independent: "We need a 1922 Committee where the leader comes only by invitation." He was reacting to the announcement that the make-up of the "liaison committee", which would act as a bridge between a Labour government and backbenchers, was being reviewed. Unlike the Tory 1922 Executive Committee, it would include the leader, deputy leader, chief whip and ministers as well as six elected backbench representatives.

The 1922 was formed in the year Tory backbenchers forced the break-up of Lloyd George's wartime coalition government and ousted Austen Chamberlain as Tory leader.

Mr Flynn warned that unless backbenchers were allowed their own voice, "there will be an almighty split". Although he is regarded as a maverick, his views are supported by many mainstream MPs in private.

After the shadow Cabinet election results were announced last Wednesday, Mr Blair's spokesman said a long-running review of the rules of the Parliamentary Labour Party would lead to a new "code of conduct" for Labour MPs and new arrangements for "consultation" in government.

Defence rebellion, page 2

QUICKLY

Ulster talks gloom
The return of violent sectarianism in Northern Ireland after 18 months of peace is one of the main problems that the all-party peace talks, due to start in earnest in Stormont today, will have to tackle. Page 6

Anarchy warning
The Indonesian armed forces commander warned of the dangers of anarchy yesterday, a day after riots left at least two people dead and buildings in Jakarta gutted by fires. Page 9

Ambulance revamp
A system to prioritise 999 calls and cut ambulance response times for life-threatening cases, has been unveiled. Page 5

CONTENTS

Section 1	
BUSINESS & CITY	18, 19
COMMENT	16, 17
CROSSWORD	20
GAZETTE	16
LEADING ARTICLES	13
LETTERS	13
NEWS	2-12
OBITUARIES	17
SHARES	17
WEATHER	2
Section 2	
ARTS	22, 23
DO WE NEED?	8, 21
FAMILY LIFE	6, 7
LISTINGS	24

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Labour's disciplinary line: MPs expected to abstain but backbench troops may well mutiny

Blair faces test on defence vote

JOHN RENTOU
Political Correspondent

Tony Blair's tough disciplinary line for Labour MPs will be tested in one of the first votes in the Commons when the House returns after the summer recess on 14 October.

The Labour leader is expected to order his troops to abstain in the annual vote on the defence estimates, to avoid being cast as being "weak on defence". Already one MP has said he will defy the whip. Lew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent, told the *Independent* he would vote against the defence estimates. "If the whips office is going to start disciplining people when we're on a three-line whip to abstain, then I'll be disciplined for voting against a Tory government, and the leadership must ask where they're taking the party," he said.

Mr Blair's drive to assert discipline over his MPs in preparation for government was rejected by several other backbenchers yesterday. David Winnick, MP for Walsall North, said: "I hope we're not going back to the pre-Harold Wilson days of harsh discipline. In 1955 Hugh Gaitskell tried to have Nye Bevan expelled. In 1961 Michael Foot and four others had the whip removed. A democratic party should allow debate. Once you start threatening to take the whip away it causes nothing but trouble."

Mr Smith, who succeeded Foot and Bevan as MP for the South Wales mining seat formerly called Ebbw Vale, said: "What the party needs is not discipline but socialism."

Leadership hints last week that the review of the rules of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) would produce a harsh new disciplinary code were accompanied by veiled threats from Donald Dewar, Labour chief whip, that persistent rebels would be suspended from the PLP.

He said that backbench MPs would have new rights if Labour were in government, but added: "Along with those rights must go



Tough stance: The Labour leader at his constituency home at Trimdon, near Middlesbrough, at the weekend

Photograph: Ted Ditchburn

responsibilities to sustain that government." Asked whether he would withdraw the whip from those who did not, he said: "I certainly hope it doesn't become a common feature."

A senior Labour whip pointed out that the PLP already put Labour MPs under a duty to refrain from personal attacks upon colleagues orally or in writing.

But he said there were "gaps" in the rules, in that there was no requirement for MPs to be contactable, and no general requirement not to bring the party into disrepute.

The reforms are defended by Nick Brown, deputy chief whip, in an article in next month's *Fabian Review*, in which he says: "It is a matter of co-operative working, not of thought-

policing." He adds: "Sniping in the press, the leaking of sensitive party documents and the practice of unattributed briefing should have no part in a cohesive political party serious about governing the country."

But Ken Livingstone, one of the objects of the Labour leadership's disapproval, told the *Independent* attempts to suppress public disagreements were a

"sneak's charter". He said: "Everyone will talk off the record, and they'll be nastier comments. It is bizarre to go down that road."

Most alarming for Labour backbenchers was the suggestion, made by a spokesman for Mr Blair, that the "liaison committee" of front and backbenchers, which acts as a channel of communication dur-

ing a Labour government, was being "reviewed".

Under the last Labour government, this committee was a tame body, consisting of seven ministers, including James Callaghan, the prime minister, six backbenchers elected by the entire PLP, one elected Labour peer and the chairman of the PLP.

Most of the internal opposition to the Labour government came from the party's national executive. Mr Blair has taken action to avert a repeal of that conflict too. Tim Sawyer, general secretary of the party, has floated a number of ideas for changing the role and structure of the national executive if Labour is in government after the next election.

Suggestions include a requirement on it to support a Labour government, diluting trade-union representation with councillors and grassroots representatives of local parties, and moving to quarterly rather than monthly meetings.

'Greater equality' to benefit the poor

Tony Blair moved yesterday to try to meet one of the main complaints of his critics in the Labour Party - that he is ignoring the poor - as he sought to justify new disciplinary measures for Labour MPs.

"I believe in greater equality. If the next Labour government has not raised the living standards of the poorest by the end of its time in office, it will

have failed," he wrote in the *Independent* on Sunday. This is a significant move in the direction advocated by the party's former deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, one of Mr Blair's sternest critics.

The Government has only recently been forced to admit official figures show the poorest tenth of society are worse off in real terms after 17 years in which wealth was supposed to

"trickle down" to them.

But Mr Blair continued to challenge Labour's left wing by saying that raising the level of state benefits would not help the poor.

"It is not a few pounds more benefit the poor need, but a job, skill or opportunity."

He set this new, specific test for a Labour government while appealing to the left of his own party: "Have faith. That is

my message to critics on the left." He added that the five early pledges in the New Labour manifesto, which will go to a ballot of all party members after this autumn's conference, were not "the limits of what we have to offer".

The pledges "may be dismissed in some quarters as tokens, but they would produce genuine benefit to ordinary people: reduce class sizes,

abolish the internal market in the NHS to cut waiting times, 250,000 young people off the dole, fast-track punishment to persistent young offenders, economic stability to protect family incomes."

He added: "In each area of policy, there is a clear distinction between Tory and Labour, but for once on territory that is popular and of our choosing."

Police turn blind eye to 'brothels' as prostitutes come in from cold

Jason Bennetto on a new era for the sex industry

For years, there has been a secret conspiracy between prostitutes and the police.

Providing the public is not disturbed, increasing numbers of police forces are content to allow women to sell sex from saunas, massage parlours and private rooms.

This arrangement has even been formalised in some cities such as Edinburgh where the quasi-brothels have been given entertainment licences by the local authority and the police only intervene where there are complaints from the public.

But as a growing number of prostitutes choose off-street work, one of the country's most senior police officers believes it is time the Government and local authorities went all the way and legalised brothels.

The proposal, by Keith Hellawell, West Yorkshire's Chief Constable, is certain to outrage certain sections of society, and most politicians would probably still consider the measure as electoral suicide. However, there has been a fundamental change in attitude. Prostitutes are no longer simply cast as wicked sinners who

corrupt, issues of health and exploitation have come to the fore.

The extent to which the police no longer consider the use of saunas, massage parlours, and flats, by prostitutes as a priority, or even much of a problem, was revealed in a recent survey of about 30 of the country's 40 vice squads. The work by the Centre of Criminology at Middlesex University, found an increasingly tolerant attitude. Officers often stated that their main priorities were to "clean up the streets" - not to police sex. And they considered that off-street prostitution posed few law-and-order problems.

Half of the squads effectively ignored them and only intervened when the public complained. Areas in which this policy prevailed included: Bristol, Bradford, Cambridge, Coventry, Essex, Greater Manchester, Hampshire, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Northampton, North Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Plymouth and Wolverhampton.

So far, only Edinburgh has of-

fered a model of how a system of legalised brothels could work.

By licensing saunas and massage parlours, the authorities in the city ensure high standards of health, safety and hygiene. Environmental health, fire and police officers approve the suitability of the premises. While this does not officially allow such businesses to operate as brothels, along with an unspoken policy of tolerance, it has resulted in a regulated sex industry.

Edinburgh's licensing convener, Douglas Keir, is candid about the position: "We can't and don't license saunas for prostitution," he said. "What we have here are some saunas which appear to be selling sex, if they are not causing problems in a locality, and if there are no local complaints, then we are happy. If there are complaints, then we will investigate, but it's not a priority for us to look into unfounded allegations."

He went on: "The saunas seemed to have found a market over the years and it's obvious

what the market is for, but the police take exactly the same line as us. It is not a priority for them. In fact, a while ago we had a group of senior police officers from Bradford who came to Edinburgh to study the situation."

Birmingham and Bristol are believed to be considering following their lead.

Prostitutes and organisations that represent them have long argued for changes in the law. There is concern that with the current drift towards unregulated off-street prostitution, women and girls are even more vulnerable to attack than on the street where at least they can call for help.

In the near future, more police forces are likely to adopt the policy of turning a blind eye, especially with the public and politicians demanding greater action against more visible crimes, such as burglary, muggings, and assaults.

But the prospect of a radical change in the law remains dim as long as the issue is considered fundamentally a moral question.

Two people held after boy's abduction

MATTHEW BRACE

Detectives were questioning two people yesterday after a weekend rampage of violent crime in which a taxi driver was stabbed and a six-year-old boy abducted at knife point.

A man aged 56 and a 25-year-old woman were arrested on Saturday after police used a spiked Stinger tyre deflation system to stop a stolen taxi and rescue the child.

During the chase across Hampshire and Wiltshire, a policeman was threatened with

a knife and a dog was killed with a knife.

The taxi driver told police that he was hijacked at knife-point after collecting a couple from the White Hart pub near Petersfield, Hampshire. They forced him to drive to Salisbury in Wiltshire, where he was stabbed as he tried to push them from his white Renault taxi. The couple dumped him at Salisbury railway station and stole the car.

About 30 minutes later, the car was spotted by a police patrol car near Shipton Bellinger, on the Wiltshire-Hampshire border, where police said PC

Ted Reynolds was threatened with a knife.

The car then stopped in the village of Shipton Bellinger where a woman was approached at her home. When she refused to open her door, her pet cocker spaniel was stabbed to death in front of her.

The car then stopped outside the Beeston pub in the village and took the six-year-old boy, who was playing outside with his brother. The pub landlord said the boys were playing in their bikies when the younger brother was snatched at knife point.

Lee Turland, 34, said he and the boys' father joined the police car chase, which ended almost 15 miles away near the entrance to the Savernake Forest, near Marlborough.

"It was horrendous," said Mr Turland. "You don't expect something so awful to happen in a rural English village like ours."

The boy was taken to hospital for a check-up and last night was with his parents at a friend's home, still shocked and talking about "the woman with a knife".

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A young woman lay injured in hospital yesterday knowing she will never see her fiancé again after joyriders fleeing police crashed into the couple's car.

Wendy Herberts, 28, was said to be in and out of consciousness in the intensive care unit of the Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, but relatives have told her that her boyfriend Andrew Scott, a 24-year-old nurse, was among three to die in Saturday's crash in Lincolnshire. Two 17-year-olds, both passengers in a stolen Montego, also died in the accident on the A52 at Winthorpe, near Skegness, at about 6.15am. A third youth, aged 19, was seriously injured, Lincolnshire police said. The Police Complaints Authority has been asked to investigate the crash. "They were a super couple - really very dedicated to each other," said Matron Charlotte King, manager of Tanglewood Sandpiper Nursing Home, where the couple met. "It's a great waste of a good nurse ... We are all extremely upset about it, very, very distressed."

A Conservative MP has been ordered to declare in the Register of Members' Interests the help given to him by banks to stave off potential bankruptcy and save his career as an MP.

The Commons committee on standards and privileges hacked a report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey, that Roy Thomson, MP for Bromsgrove, had received a substantial declarable benefit from banks which was not normally available to members of the public in that the banks agreed to defer any bankruptcy proceedings. Evidence to the report suggested that senior Conservatives, including the former Cabinet minister Lord Younger, met the MP's creditors to help prevent bankruptcy and to stop a by-election being called. Mr Thomson, said in the report to have liabilities of £6m, has now agreed to register the interest but claimed it was a "technical" complaint. *Michael Street*

Commuters face another dose of misery today

Because of the latest strike by London Underground drivers, with the prospect of industrial action on the railways to add to the travel chaos. The capital's tube network is expected to be at a virtual standstill for the third time in the past fortnight because of a joint walk-out by members of Aslef and the Rail Maritime and Transport union in a bitter dispute over working hours. More Tube strikes are planned throughout August and into September.

In an attempt to mitigate the misery, a car-sharing hotline (telephone 0191 222 0090) has been set up by the RAC and Freewheelers to try to cut down on the number of vehicles travelling into London on Tube strike days.

David Aarnovitch interviews Lew Adams, general secretary of Aslef, page 14

The Citizen's Charter should cease to be a one-way street, one of the scheme's more vehement supporters said yesterday. Roderick Nye, Director of the Social Market Foundation said that in future the Charter should place demands on the public to use services responsibly - and not just confer rights on the public and responsibilities on the services.

The Citizen's Charter - five years old this month - was set up to make clear people's rights from public services, and to make the services more responsive. While it has succeeded in that, Mr Nye argued, "the contract has been almost exclusively one-sided". Complaints from GPs about unreasonable demands for night visits, from schools about uninterested parents, and from hospitals that patients fail to turn up for booked appointments, show that the public has responsibilities too, he said, and it is time they were spelt out in the charter. *Nicholas Timmins*

■ The Citizen's Charter Five Years On, SMF, 20 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA

Lady Sarah Chatto, daughter of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, gave birth to a son yesterday, just over a fortnight after Lady Sarah, 31, and her husband Daniel celebrated their second wedding anniversary. A statement from Kensington Palace said: "Lady Sarah Chatto gave birth to a son this morning, weighing 7lb 12oz. Both Lady Sarah and the baby are doing well." It was too early to announce a name for the baby, the spokesman said.

A couple posted as missing for three days arrived at their daughter's home yesterday, unharmed and unaware that the police had been notified of their disappearance.

Joseph King and his wife Mary had been expected at their daughter Edith Cooper's home in Crewe, Cheshire, last Thursday but did not turn up. Mrs Cooper contacted the police, who interviewed friends and neighbours, and broadcast appeals on radio.

Without telling anyone, the couple had set off from Dyfed for a three-day jaunt to Bournemouth, Llandudno and Rhyl. Mrs Cooper said: "We feared the worst, then when they turned up at lunchtime I was furious with them both." Mr King, who is to apologise to the police, said: "I feel so stupid."

A harmful greenhouse-effect gas produced by millions of years in rocks deep below the North Sea, British scientists claim.

Researchers from the British Geological Survey who are investigating ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions say the technology already exists to compress carbon dioxide into a liquid and pipe it underground. According to the scientists, permeable rocks under the North Sea could be used to store vast amounts of the gas, preventing it from entering the atmosphere to contribute to global warming. Over thousands of years the gas would slowly dissolve.

As a side benefit, the gas could be pumped into depleted oil fields where the remaining oil is too thick to be extracted under normal conditions. The gas would thin the oil, allowing it to be recovered.

Four winners are celebrating the 89th National Lottery jackpot of £9.6 million. The winning numbers were 13, 21, 45, 2, 19, 32 with 9 as the bonus number. Each jackpot winner will receive £2,403,240. Another 59 people had five numbers and the bonus ball and they each win £50,132. Those who matched five numbers totalled 1,656 and they get £1,116 each. Almost 70,000 people managed to get four numbers. The 69,564 winners each get £58 and another 1,220,187 get £10 each.

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Middle aged women? Not any more

"Youth is a stuff will not endure" William Shakespeare proclaimed. But that was in the days when life expectancy was half what it is now. In the late 20th century youth is enduring and enduring and enduring, and middle age has been abolished.

The "mid youth" society - its replacement - has distinguished members. Goldie Hawn, Helen Mirren and Joanna Lumley have all celebrated their 50th birthdays in the last year, and their appeal is greater than ever.

Ms Lumley may have first achieved fame in the 1970s with the *New Avengers* but will be remembered for her 1990s triumph - the chain-smoking, coke-sniffing drunkard Patsy in *Absolutely Fabulous*. Ms Mirren has been working for the Royal Shakespeare Company since her 20s but had her greatest success as Detective Inspector Jane Tennison in *Prime Suspect*. Last week Ms Hawn, with a career of 30 years behind her, was photographed in London looking amazing in a see-through T-shirt and figure-hugging trousers. Her partner, Kurt Russell, has described her as "a phenomenon. She looks 35 and a healthy looking 35 as well."

They are not the only ones. Susan Sarandon, 49, won her Best Actress Oscar this year for *Dead Man Walking* and Jane Fonda, 58, has gone through the careers of actress, aerobics guru and revolutionary and is now married to billionaire Ted Turner.

But while we have grown up with the image that Hollywood stars never fade, they just get another facelift, the signs are equally strong in real life.

Opening photo albums at a recent family party was a shock: I looked at pictures from 1971 of my aunt's wedding. My relations looked middle-aged. Glancing at my mother, Carys, across the table I realised she was a good 10 years older than the figures in the photos, yet at 52 she looked 20 years younger than them.

Nearly 30 years separate my mother and me but look at us together and it seems half that. And she is not the only one. The concept of the 40-year-old woman worn out by years of childbirth, settling down for a quiet life of slippers and Scrabble is outdated. She is far more likely to be the Peugeot 306 woman in a little black dress, whisking her husband off for sex on the beach before returning home to her two children.

The cult of youth is such that according to the Wrinkle Report, a Harris poll of 1,200 men and women aged 30 to 50 in the United States, three out of four baby boomers - the immediate post-war generation - think they look younger than their years. Eight out of 10 say they have fewer signs of facial ageing than their peers. (A situation that is statistically impossible according to a spokesman for the pollsters.) Maddy Kent-Dyche, described in the report as a "nationally recognised expert on the boomer generation", says a typical 45-year-old feels 15 years younger. "Boomers are re-defining what is young so they can be included in the definition. In fact the stage of life they're entering might not be called middle-aged at all but 'mid-youth' instead."

There does seem to be some truth behind the picture of mid-youth Dorian Grays. The boundaries of middle-age have changed as our life expectancy alters.

Had you been born in 1841 you could expect to live to 40 if you were a man and 42 if you were a woman, which places middle age somewhere round 21. By 1950 this had risen to 66 years and 71.5 years respectively. Male babies born in 1993 can look forward to 73.8 years of life and females 79.1.

Dr Sidney Jones, a psychologist with an interest in lifespan, says that basic but radical changes in the way we live have contributed to the redefinition of age. "Between 1900 and 1930 the average height of 13-year-old boys went up two-and-a-half inches. That is an enormous amount in 30 years. Health has a big effect on how people feel. If you are healthy you feel better," he said. People are better

nourished than they were 50 years ago, and many threatening diseases - tuberculosis, scarlet fever and diphtheria - are rare in the UK.

One of the biggest tolls on women's health, frequent childbearing, has almost ceased thanks to the Pill and the decision to marry and have children later. On average women marry at the age of 29.9, four years later than in 1940. The fertility rate has dropped from 2.93 in 1964, to 1.8 and about one in five women will remain childless.

Many delay having children until they are in their 30s. "A lot

aren't starting work until they are in their 20s. It also changes ways of thinking, the levels and range of interests."

It was once said that the three most important advances for women's lives in the 20th century were the vote, the Pill and the washing machine. The emancipation of women in the last 100 years has been a major driving force in pushing back the boundaries of age.

"Women are no longer dependent on men economically. Marriage is no longer necessary," said Dr Jones. "In many cases women are becoming

'If you establish a youth cult what happens when time moves on? You have to keep being young'

of the risks previously thought to be associated with having babies at a more mature age were based on women who had had a lot of children, and who were not well-nourished or healthy," said Professor David James, professor of fetal-maternal medicine at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. "Women who choose to have babies later are often healthier, from a higher socio-economic background and have chosen to limit the number of children they have. The only risk we have to warn them about is that of Down's Syndrome."

But the difference between the middle-aged now and those half a century ago is more social than physical, argues Dr Jones. These include a more prosperous society, better housing, shorter working hours and improved education. "People

are the driving force in social change."

Dr Kevin Morgan, senior lecturer in gerontology at the University of Sheffield, argues cultural changes have been just as important. The difference is in what we do, not what we are.

"Age-specific activities used to tell us how old we were. It was the question of 'acting your age'. If you looked back to 1956 you wouldn't find 40-year-olds engaging in strenuous physical activity, there wasn't the same concern about keeping fit and going to the gym. And there was no question of 50-year-olds listening to the same music as 16-year-olds."

"Now the distinctions have blurred between older and younger people. The absolute judgements have gone."

"It's part of the general post-modern trend. What happened

was the value of retaining rigid roles simply eroded away."

For Dr Morgan significant events that chart the shifting revolution took place after the Second World War - Jack Kerouac and the Beat generation, Bill Haley and the growth of rock'n'roll. "This generation defined itself as culturally different. But if you establish a youth cult what happens when time keeps moving on and you're no longer the person you were? You have to keep being young, there's actually a kind of inverse logic to it. A classic case is Mick Jagger who is in his mid-50s. There seems to be no on-off mechanism for him."

Our obsession with youth has led a clinical neuropsychologist to conduct a study into the "superyoung" - 3,000 people between the ages of 19 and 102 who look 12 to 14 years younger than their actual age. Dr David Weeks of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital has been looking at the ageing process and the connection between ageing and ill-health.

So what are the secrets of eternal youth? The superyoung usually take regular exercise (and tend to have done so since their late teens or early 20s), have happy marriages or partnerships, often with someone younger than they are, and mix with younger people.

Few smoke and, in the case of post-menopausal women, many take hormone replacement therapy. Their diets are not unusual but there were 5 to 10 per cent more vegetarians than predicted. Dr Weeks estimates that the superyoung number "about 1 per cent of the population".

As I pray that my mother has remembered to leave her genes to me, the question of the future remains. Can we all continue to get younger and younger, abandoning knitting for nightclubs, or will Dorian Gray's picture eventually be smashed?

Don't worry, is the answer. The fab 50s have a long way to go yet, as demonstrated by Noel Coward's *Elsie*, who elucidates the most important points of acting your age in the 1938 production *Set To Music*.

"We talked about growing old gracefully. And *Elsie*, who's seventy-four

Said 'A: it's a question of being sincere. And B: if you're supple you've nothing to fear'."

Then she swung upside down from a glass chandelier. I couldn't have liked it more."



Glenda Cooper, 25, pictured above with her mother Carys, 52, discovers that the 'mid youth' society is getting younger all the time, thanks to better health, more prosperity and, for women, fewer children



Enduring youth: (From left) Goldie Hawn, a 'phenomenon' who looks 35; Oscar-winner Susan Sarandon; Joanna Lumley, star from the 1970s and 90s and Helen Mirren, star of 'Prime Suspect'

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How to mask the march of time

Ten top tips:

1. Choose your parents wisely. Genes and bone structure always win out.

2. Get someone else to have your children. Cuts out the worry of stretch marks.

3. Hormone therapy - HRT or testosterone patches. Teresa Gorman swears by it.

4. Desert your own generation and go out with a toy-boy. You're as young as the man you feel.

5. Join a gym. Regular exercise can't be beaten (also good for meeting toyboys).

6. Dress to kill. Even M&S have brought themselves up to date.

7. Watch Top of the Pops again. Most of the bands on it will be your age anyway.

8. Forget gardening. Monopoly and quiet nights in. Relive Saturday Night Fever instead.

9. If in doubt, cheat. Face lifts, tummy tucks... Everyone else does it.

10. Remember the words of Bernard Baruch: Old age is always 15 years older than you are.



Teresa Gorman: HRT advocate

'It is evident that people want change, leaders who tell them the truth, men and women who live honestly.'

Here I Stand!

DR. MORRIS CERULLO will be in Britain in August this year to speak at Mission to London.

He has presented the Christian gospel to more people in more countries throughout the world than any other Christian Evangelist with perhaps the exception of Dr. Billy Graham. He has led Missions to Britain every year since

1961 and for the past four years he has been the leading speaker at Earls Court. Much criticised by sceptics in British media over style and content of his Ministry he continues his untiring efforts to reach vast regions of the world with the Christian Gospel.

The following article is the result of his very deep concern for Britain.

When God first called me to preach the Gospel of Christ to the people of Britain, I had many misgivings. I did not want to come. I believed the British people to be insular, cold, unwelcoming and wary of anything from America. Preachers in particular. But God in an unmistakable fashion made it clear to me that Britain was in need and I must come.

My first Mission to London, thirty five years ago, was held in a marquee at the Elephant & Castle - a site now occupied by a shopping complex.

Poor, needy people came to the event in their thousands. Many of them were new British residents drawn from the far flung reaches of the Commonwealth. They had come to Britain to help rebuild the Mother country after a devastating war, but because of the colour of their skin they found themselves to be unwelcome foreigners living amongst an anxious, deeply troubled white population. They made themselves our friends and we loved them all. They welcomed us freely into their hearts and homes and I am so grateful to God that he helped us through Christ to meet ruined lives, broken homes and sick bodies. From those dear people in the 1960's and 1970's my wife Theresa and I have made so many friends.

Each year for three and a half decades we have returned to Britain compelled by the plight of so many needy people. Each year in our School of Ministry we have trained thousands of Christian men and women of every age and from every social strata - to share their Christian experience with friends and neighbours. Many of the

"I have come to love very deeply the people of these great British islands."

Like others I often weep over the vicious attacks on men, women and children in cities throughout the land. Over the growing number of homes in desperate poverty and even worse, those wrecked by divorce, where children join the never ending queue of suffering. In whatever glamorous way the story is told in Britain by those who should know better, when a parent leaves the marital home for greener fields the hearts of children are broken. We weaken their characters. We cause their delinquency. We irreparably damage their lives. There is no excuse for us. When God made the family unit He made it for life. When unwise rulers undermine it through the weakening of the marriage bond they show scant care for the people whom they claim to represent.

My wife and I are no strangers to grief. When I was a mere infant my mother died and along with my brothers and sisters I was placed in a Jewish orphanage. The agony, the grief, the tears, longing for a mother's arms and a father's love.

Just a few years ago my youngest

of Salvationists he tirelessly worked to eradicate poverty, unemployment and alcoholism. Britain has more names like these etched in its history than perhaps any other like nation on earth. Ordinary, home loving men and women whose compassion compelled

For eleven months of every year I travel the world, holding crusades, missions and training schools because, together with my many partners, I care for the people. I am compelled to share the precious Gospel of my Saviour Jesus Christ with every

Christian culture what force has taken possession of the most powerful mass media in the land to preclude the Christian church advertising its core theology. You cannot buy advertising time on British television to preach the simple message declared by Jesus Christ and contained in the very Bible many of you have in your homes. That is censorship indeed. It has been developed in Britain in a most insidious and odious fashion.

As the nation is hurt by one disaster or another or there is news of a crime more callous or horrifying than before, or divorce figures reveal a never ending upward trend, it is evident that the people want change. They want political leaders who tell them

organised earlier this month for the Daily Telegraph.

God calls us to holiness - not hollowness. He calls us to reject base animal instincts. He calls for us to better what he has entrusted to us not worship it.

My critics say that the message I bring year by year is not popular. Yet we have been able to train over 800,000 nationals across the world to stand tall, to go out into the highways and byways to better their fellowmen. While ivory towered clergy debate the reality of God we, along with others, have helped to establish orphanages and feeding centres to bring wholeness to broken lives and families. To present in reality the love of God that passes all human understanding and negative theology.

I've travelled this world many times over carrying the most important message ever heard. "God sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. I've witnessed countless miracles. I've seen families, here in

needy lives. Will I pray for the sick? Oh yes I will. Jesus said *lay hands on the sick and they shall recover*. Many will be healed this year.

To understand Morris Cerullo, you need to go back with me to that Jewish Orphanage in New Jersey USA. On the night that God called me to serve him as a teenager I had despaired of life itself. I felt unloved, uncared for and had no sense of belonging.

A quiet caring little lady nurse worked in the orphanage and that night had the courage to share her faith with me. She gave me a Bible that I was able to read under the bed covers at night. She was compassionate. She did not compromise to meet the requirements of her surroundings. She gave me a book that was as old as time itself. That lady lost her job because she told me about Christ. In very tough times, she was indifferent to her loss for my sake.

It was those beginnings that gave me the boldness to stand for truth, for righteousness for integrity. I may be



them to rise to the extraordinary.

Today Britain is in rapid decline spiritually, morally, and materially. The civilised society envisaged by a handful of rationalist thinkers in the 1960's has done more damage to the people of Britain and Europe than any philosophy for a thousand years. It has seeped into every strata of society. It has weakened the resolve of good men and confused God given instinctive response to what is naturally right or wrong. Rationalist law says "do whatever pleases you providing others to not get hurt." Divine law says "love your neighbour as yourself and do to others as you would have done to you." How can I love my neighbour and commit adultery with his wife, or break the hearts of his children, or rob him or lie to him.

The laws of Britain were framed on Christian teaching. They were models for the governments of many lands. They set standards of righteousness, justice and equality. Since the 1960's many of your most fundamental laws have been eroded to suit the whims of atheists, rationalists and confused spiritual leaders.

nation on the face of the earth. As I meet with religious and political leaders and see vast numbers of people turning from their old ways to new life in Christ, I long that God will turn the hearts of people in Britain again to Himself.

Last year we were censured by the Advertising Standards Authority because we advertised miracles which had actually taken place in the lives of people at Mission to London. According to the Advertising Standards Authority we must no longer say that God can heal sick bodies or change lives or restore broken families.

In Britain you now face censorship of the very book Tyndale was martyred to set free from censorship.

Censorship in Britain prevents the Christian Church advertising the message contained in the Gospel. It is forbidden to advertise on your television screens Christ Jesus can heal, can save, can change your life for the better. Indeed the very heart of Christ's own message. It is however, in order to advertise violent films, homosexual clubs, or products which deliberately use soft pornography to persuade you to buy.

In a nation deeply centred on

the truth. Men and women who live honestly. Caring, compassionate people, strong leaders. They want unconfused church leaders. The nation needs Men of integrity who lead by what the God of the Bible has to say not what they think may be politically acceptable. People want men of courage to lead them - not to condemn them. Fearless men like Knox, Wesley, Booth.

Whilst with others, I applaud the efforts at last being made by the Church of England through Dr. Carey to restore spiritual and moral standards to the nation. It is too little too late. It will draw effective response if it has its foundations rooted in the unswerving truths contained in the Scriptures and it rejects any effort to pandor to rank, position or creed. John the Baptist presented truth without fear or favour to ordinary people, rulers and kings. The people loved him. Rulers feared him. He paid for truth with his life and his memorial lives in millions to this day.

The Bible, the book in which for over fifty years I have put more confidence than any other has this to say. "If the trumpet makes an uncertain sound who shall prepare for battle". It also says that righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people. Britain needs good men and women to give decisive, clear Christian leadership. To put spiritual values before material values. To help restore the nation to Greatness through God centred Christian living.

Every week it is reported six million people attend church in Britain. Television raising figures indicate that another seven million watch church in front of their television screens with Songs of Praise or other similar services. Thousands of men and women are committed Christian ministers or workers. My dear friends God wants you to set a standard of righteousness that will affect your families, your friends, your neighbours. That will rid the nation of complacency and through prayer, praise and worship break down satanic forces which have brought the nation to spiritual poverty. The figures demonstrate that Britain is hungry for God. Anyone with any doubt should look closely at the recent opinion research on the resurrection of Christ carried out by the Sunday Times and the BBC or the Gallop Research



BLACK & WHITE ENDS AND ALMS

London united, healed, delivered from guilt, released from drug addiction. Yet here in this very nation we're being told not to repeat claims Jesus made about the power of God He said "the deaf will hear, the blind will see and the lame will walk." It is a pity I cannot take you to the lands with no running water and little food, where they have no National

Health Service or comfortable surgery, waiting rooms. There the choice is stark. There no Advertising Standard. Authority will muffle their cries of joy as the father of the mother of an infant child walks or sees for the first time. They shout or scream or thank God and why not. Wouldn't you? Does it happen only in Nigeria or Ghana or India or Indonesia? No, it happens in London year by year. And every year, the critics come to turn over every stone or look at every angle and journalists look down their pens at us and complain about the noise but miss altogether that they have a new life story to tell.

God is bigger than the race problems in Britain. I've stood and looked out at the audience of Mission to London in Earls Court. I've seen the white man reach out in praise to God with the black man. I've seen Asian join hands with the European. There is no sham unity at these Missions. Black and white embrace and share. They are in every sense at one.

"Why come to London the critics ask. To preach the life giving, life changing Gospel. To share this precious faith which can restore Britain to greatness again. While churches lie fallow in London and Earls Court fill with hungry people I must minister to

criticised for many things in Britain but I will not flinch from the work God has given me to do. The people of Britain will stand or fall by their commitment to Christ. Not through empty promises from Downing Street or faith in well meaning political figures.

Britain will rise again when it stands to be counted for righteousness. I believe that science and Christianity together are providing an array of evidence that man is approaching the end of time. The Bible clearly indicates that God will shortly intervene in the affairs of men. This year my dear friends I would like to give you a very personal invitation to join me at Earls Court. I know we have the answer to your needs and the great needs of your nation. I would love to share that answer with you.

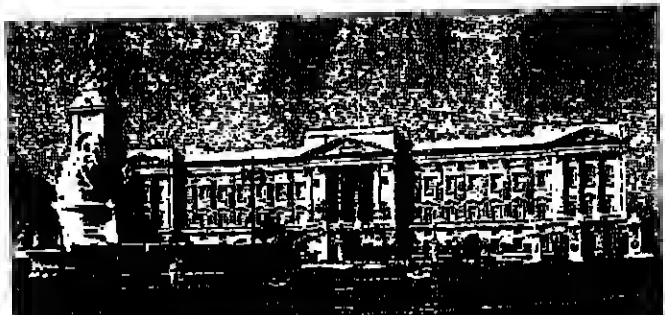
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(LEFT TO RIGHT) WILLIAM BOOTH, LEON SOUTHWORTH, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE & WILLIAM WILSON



BUCKINGHAM PALACE - SURVIVED DESTRUCTIVE TIMES

graduates from our schools have become Christian Ministers themselves. Others have found practical outlets for their Christianity as teachers, nurses, doctors and social workers.

During my years as a Christian Evangelist I have come to love very deeply the people of these great British islands. I have mourned over the tragedies that have struck at hearts and lives - Lockerbie, Hillsborough, Dunblane, Warrington, Canary Wharf, and so recently Manchester. Of little Jamie Bulger and the two children imprisoned for his death, the father who was ticked to death in a little Oxfordshire village simply because he tried to rescue his little girl from the irrational attack of a group of teenagers and so many more horrific stories. I have grieved over the unhappy events which have torn apart your Royal family. No mother, be it humble servant, Queen or President can remain unbroken when such destructive tides flow against those bound so closely to us. I have watched the inhumane activities of your media circus as they have acted like cannibals picking over every piece of flesh to feed an unending hunger for information on the tragedies of others. In fact, the nation should have been in deep mourning.

The civilised society envisaged by a handful of rationalist thinkers in the 1960's has done more damage to the people of Britain and Europe than any philosophy for a thousand years.

Booth whose life and work so influenced the nation that even the prison population was reduced, for the first time in modern history. With his hand

1550



Big bang: A controlled explosion levels gas holders at the Ravenscraig steelworks, Scotland. It took six seconds to demolish three cooling towers and two gas holders which dominated Motherwell for 30 years Photograph: Colin McPherson

GCSE marks could be delayed by exams row

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Ministers fear that a row over the quality of exams may disrupt publication of GCSE and A level results this month, after an official inquiry into possible falling standards failed to reach any firm conclusions.

A joint study by schools inspectors and exam officials, due to be completed by the autumn, will say there is not enough evidence to show whether or not grades have drifted upwards in the past 20 years. The investigation was announced last year by Chris Woodhead, chief inspector of schools and head of the school inspection body Ofsted, and approved by Gillian Shephard, the education secretary. It was due to be published earlier, but was delayed because students' exam scripts had not been kept.

There have also been suggestions, officially denied, that Mr Woodhead has commissioned his own inquiry by Ofsted inspectors working independently.

Mrs Shephard had already delivered a sharp warning that pupils' results should not be damaged by allegations of "grade inflation". At a briefing last week, she said that any improvement in this year's grades should be credited to hard work by students rather than to lower standards.

Her remarks reflect growing tension between officials. The Authority claims that it is impossible to prove whether exams are getting easier, while Mr Woodhead is irritated by the impasse – a possible explanation for the separate inquiry he is rumoured to be pursuing.

Last night Sheila Lawlor, director of the right-wing think-

Independent inquiry fails to reach conclusion over falling standards

tank Politeia, said the exam system should be reformed so that standards could be ensured over time. "The pressure will be on Mrs Shephard to reflect the interests of her department and of the education establishment, which has maintained all along that high marks mean high standards," she said. A spokesman for Ofsted said that no separate research was planned, and a spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said that the joint report had not been commissioned by Mrs Shephard. "This is not a government inquiry. Work is still continuing," he said.

As long ago as 1977, a parliamentary committee criticised exam boards for failing to keep scripts and said that they should be stored so that standards could be checked in the future.

Reading standards among British nine-year-olds are lower than those in Finland and the US, according to a study of 1,800 pupils by the National Foundation for Educational Research. But British children scored higher than average in a survey of literacy in 29 countries, scoring 507 points against an average of 500, though the spread of results was wider: the highest-achieving pupils in England and Wales did better than those in most other countries, while the weakest 25 per cent did substantially worse.

Fast-track 999 service unveiled

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

Plans for a fast-track system which will prioritise 999 calls and cut ambulance response times on life-threatening cases, have been unveiled by health ministers.

It is believed that up to 3,200 lives might be saved each year if ambulances could reach 90 per cent of the estimated 300,000 urgent cases within an eight-minute period.

Emergency calls are dealt with in rotation, and the current target response times are 14 minutes in town and 19 minutes in rural areas, regardless of the nature of the emergency.

Under the scheme, to be introduced in all areas from October 1997, emergency operators will be trained to ask the caller brief questions to determine the seriousness of the situation. Life-threatening cases will include people who are unconscious, or suffering from severe breathing problems, trauma with penetrative injuries, serious allergic reaction, and problems with children under two years.

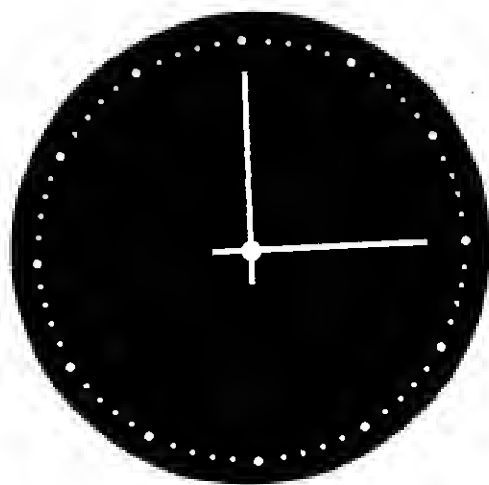
John Hiram, the junior health minister who made the announcement, rejected union claims that the initiative would lead to the rationing of ambulance services. A spokesman for Unison, which represents 80 per cent of ambulance workers, said: "What we don't want is an elite service rushing around in helicopters and on motorbikes."

Mr Hiram said the new service's cost would be met by "improvements to ambulance service performance" and "extra investment over time from health authorities using their increased resources".

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, he said he would "guarantee" people would still get their existing service, but the response to people whose lives were threatened would be speeded up to within eight minutes.

Other organisations gave a cautious welcome to the scheme. Professor Brian Pentecost, medical director of the British Heart Foundation, said: "Prompt arrival of skilled paramedics may make the difference between life and death for heart-attack victims."

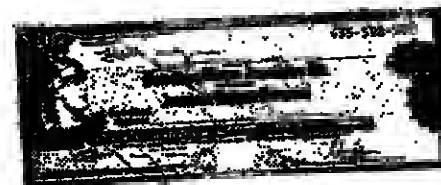
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Gloom over peace talks: Today's negotiations must quell the hatred unleashed after Drumcree. Michael Streeter reports

Sectarian 'plague' revisits community

Like the return of a cyclical plague, the language and pursuit of sectarianism once again haunts Northern Ireland.

After 18 months of relative moderation, the bloody fiasco of Drumcree – when an Orange parade past a Catholic area provoked nationalist fury and days of violence – have re-ignited hatreds which optimists hoped had gone for ever. Its re-emergence will be one of the main problems the all-party peace talks, due to start in Stormont today, must tackle.

This resurgent sectarianism has revealed itself in many forms: nationalist campaigns to boycott Protestant businesses; desecration of churches; the hounding of families, many of them Catholic, from their homes; daubing of sectarian slogans, and attacks on schools.

Phrases such as "Fenian bastard" and "Fascist Orangemen"

are back in currency. In a strange transference of language, a nationalist cry after the Drumcree siege was "let's burn the black bastards out" – a sentiment both sectarian and racist in tone.

The RUC were described as "Fenians" by Orangemen during the Drumcree blockade, but after the parade the same officers were attacked as "Orange scum" by nationalists.

The outbreak of verbal hostilities may even have taken its cue from the highest level after Irish and British premiers John Bruton and John Major traded insults over the decision to let the parade go ahead.

Some people cannot remember such hostility in the air, but did this naked sectarianism ever really go away during the months of the ceasefire?

Dr Richard English, lecturer in politics at Queen's Uni-

versity, Belfast, thinks not: "The rising tension of the last few weeks has brought to the surface what has been latent throughout the ceasefire."

"What seemed to have gone – for example, the language of sectarianism – has boiled up again. People feel they can say what, privately, they were thinking all along."

There has just been a masking of sectarianism in the last

couple of years," he said. Those who thought it had disappeared had been naïve, he added.

Church leaders are caught in the crossfire. In a recent statement, the Presbyterian church called for compromise on all sides but added that those who started actions which then led to violence could not shirk responsibility – a reference to the inflexible unionist stance at Drumcree. DUP MP Peter

Robinson immediately attacked these words as "pathetic ... an outrage and a disgrace."

Perhaps Mr Robinson should have read another part of the churchmen's statement. "The apostle James warned us that even a spark of an inappropriate word can set the whole place on fire, with fire from hell," it read.

The church's Moderator, Dr. Harry Allen conceals his dismay

at Mr Robinson's remarks and told the *Independent* that he wants politicians on all sides to use the language of love.

"Even if people disagree, they have to be careful and temperate. The old saying 'careless words cost lives' still applies."

Bill Tosh, chairman of the CBI in Northern Ireland, admits he was "shocked" by the return of the violence and language which he thought a relic of the

past. Such mindless sectarianism, he feels, which includes attacks on businesses, will cost the economy more than £20m. "People still seem not to realise that they are shooting themselves in the foot."

One useful barometer of public mood can be found in the letters pages of local newspapers. Billy Kennedy of the unionist *Newsletter* says the paper has extended its columns from three days a week to daily, and says correspondence is more strident than before. Tom Collins, editor of the nationalist *Irish News* says he cannot recall as strong a public reaction as he has seen over Drumcree.

SDLP vice-chairman, Joe Byrne, points a finger firmly at the events of Drumcree as the cause of unease and alienation now felt by nationalists. "This is almost a throwback to feelings they had 20 years ago."

Equally, he condemns boycotts of Protestant businesses. "That is a road back to the Dark Ages," he says, urging political leaders to send a positive message to all communities by making the Stormont talks work.

It is not all gloom, however. Father Brian Lennon a respected commentator, wrote recently that it was "nonsense" to suggest the Province is slipping back to 1969. "It is time for us to get things into perspective," he wrote in the *Irish News*. "In part, this means facing our own sectarianism."

One can only hope this positive mood is more telling than the fears of Ulster Unionist councillor Derek Hussey, whose constituents face an economic boycott in County Tyrone. "Perhaps," he says of the violence at and after Drumcree, "these events reached deep into people's true feelings."

Parties' compromise allows peace talks to resume

The all-party Northern Ireland peace negotiations are due to overcome their first hurdle today when after more than six weeks of wrangling delegates vote on rules and procedures.

The majority of the parties are expected to agree on the compromise rules, hammered out under the chairman, former United States Senator George Mitchell, despite last-minute objections from both the

Democratic Unionist Party and unionists in the UK.

The parties at Stormont will then consider the agenda for substantive talks, including decommissioning of weapons and the province's constitutional status. The DUP has threatened to walk out if this last matter is discussed. The party also questions the right of the nationalist Social and Democratic Labour Party to stay in the

talks after pulling out of the Northern Ireland Forum on Friday.

The parties may agree to extend sessions by two days to Thursday before adjourning for a month's summer break. Sources close to the talks dismissed suggestions that Mr Mitchell is threatening to resign soon as chairman. One said: "The timing doesn't make sense now there are signs of some agreement and he's no quitter."

The impossible dream of living in peace

For years social planners in Northern Ireland have dreamed of mixed housing: Protestants and Catholics living side by side in peace.

Mary, a mother of two small boys, tried to live it: "I wanted my sons to grow up in a mixed area, knowing about Protestants as well as Catholics and treating both the same."

So within months of peace breaking out in September 1994, Mary (she does not want to give her full name) moved with her sons from the resolutely nationalist Ardoyne area of North Belfast to the loyalist Skelligone, where there were a few Catholic and mixed families.

At first the experiment seemed to work. Mary got on well with most of her neighbours and the elder of the boys settled into a mixed school.

Then, as the loyalist marching season approached, the atmosphere became electric. "They call this time Mad July, but this year it was just insane," said Mary. "My son came back excited, saying he was being taken to watch some people burn the Irish flag and a picture of the Pope. Of course, he had no idea what it meant."

"Then he asked me, 'What's a Fenian bastard?' How do you answer questions like that?"

With the siege of Drumcree at its height, Catholic neighbours of Mary were being burnt or threatened out and she realised her dream was over. She removed her children to friends, and while her Protestant neigh-

MIXED HOUSING

hours were out marching on the 12th July, she, too, left.

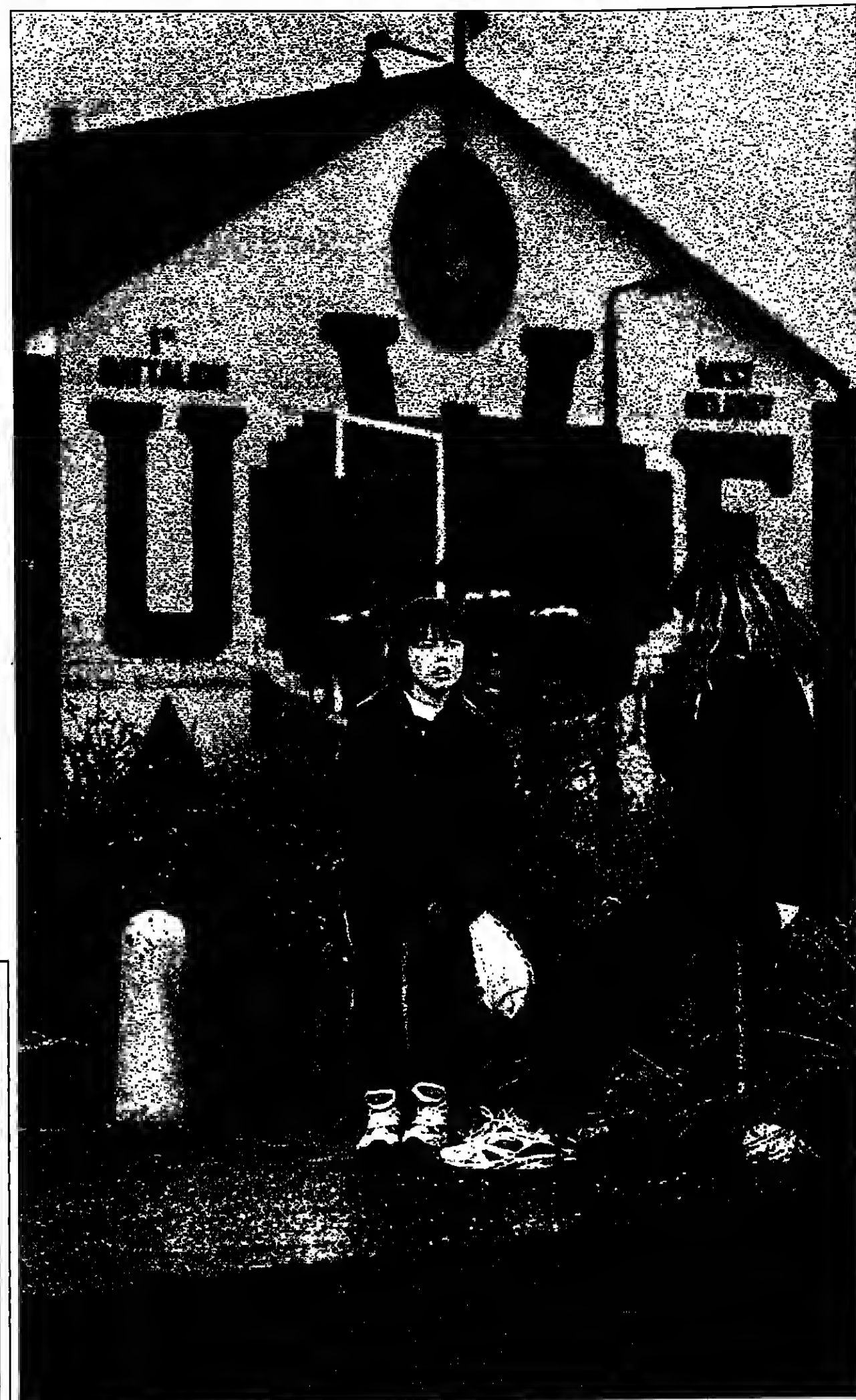
"I will never go back to a mixed area," said Mary, who is now staying in a Belfast hotel with her sons. "I still have some Protestant friends but I could never trust living in a Protestant area. As far as I am concerned, ... mixed housing is over. Until you face it, you have no idea how much hatred there is."

Mary and her children are among 211 people, some Protestants, most Catholics, officially recorded as having been intimidated into leaving their homes over a two-week period. Others will have left without telling the authorities.

The Housing Executive, which runs social housing, estimates the likely costs of repairs, lost rent and hotel bills at around £1.5m.

Spokesman Brian Henderson admits that after recent events the concept of mixed housing is back to "square one". But he adds: "There are still, in Northern Ireland, public sector estates where people live quite happily together – though fewer than 20 years ago."

An even bleaker view is held by Alderman Fred Proctor, an Ulster Unionist councillor living in the Old Park area of Belfast. He regrets that Catholic and Protestant cannot yet live together. "They are incompatible ... It's sad, it's unfortunate – but I'm being honest about the reality of Belfast today."



Power of the image: Children playing in an estate in the Shankill Road, Belfast, where some of the houses have been newly decorated with loyalist designs. Photograph: William Cherry

Catholic boycott of shops evokes language of past

The letter dropped through the door in the morning post but George, a hazy shopkeeper, did not get around to opening it until lunchtime. When he did, the contents astonished him.

The unsigned letter was from a nationalist accusing George (not his real name) of being heavily involved in loyalist roadblocks, and announcing a Catholic boycott of his shop.

It was no idle threat; nearly two weeks on and the Protestant businessman has seen his trade almost halved.

"My customers were about 50-50 Protestants and Catholics," said George, who lives and works in the small town of Castlederg, Co Tyrone, a few miles from the Irish Republic.

"Since the week of Drumcree I have had hardly any of my Catholic customers in – I reckon my trade has gone down by more than 40 per cent. At first I thought it might be down anyway because of the holiday period – but now it's clear they are staying away."

George is not alone. At least seven other Protestant businessmen in the town have received the same letter – always ending "yours disappointed" – which bears the sign of an orchestrated campaign.

In nearby Omagh, where a Protestant dry-cleaning business was burnt down, there was an even more ominous letter in a local Catholic newspaper. It finished: "Do not spend your money in support of Orangemen and their Orange Order. Buy only from Catholic businesses and invest in your own people – the only people who truly want full civil rights and a future for Catholics in these northern counties."

It was signed "General Boycott".

The word carries a heavy historical resonance in the island of Ireland, emanating from the eponymous Captain Boycott, one of the principle victims of tenant farmers withholding rent and co-operation in the last three decades of the 19th century.

George, who denies helping with the loyalist roadblocks which caused disruption locally during the Drumcree siege, is shocked and bemused by its return.

"I thought 'boycott' was the language of the past. I have been in business for 25 years and I have not come across this kind of thing before."

"The sadness is that Castlederg is not noted for actions like this – we have a good spread of

BUSINESS CRISIS

people from both communities."

The danger now is of Protestant retaliation. "You could see things turn the other way," said George, "and people could boycott Catholic businesses. I wouldn't like to see that – it would not be very helpful."

Perhaps inevitably, some Protestants are urging a tit-for-tat severing of all ties with the Republic – a reflection of the view that the boycott is being whipped up by "outside elements".

A local Ulster Unionist coun-

Boycott 'Orange' businesses

DEAR SIR, — Orangemen and the police marched together on the Garryvagh Road to show their determination to deny full civil rights and equality to Catholics in this artificial statelet.

How can we as Catholics respond to this continuing mistreatment at the hands of Orangemen? Firstly since the Orangemen are obviously against us we must stop giving them our money. We must (at least) boycott all 'Orange' businesses.

Do not spend your money in support of Orangemen and their Orange Order. Buy only from Catholic businesses and invest in your own people – the only people who truly want full civil rights and a future for Catholics in these northern counties.

Yours sincerely,
GENERAL BOYCOTT

Stay away: The letter from Ulster Herald urging a boycott

cillor, Derek Hussey, calls the letters "sinister" and adds: "I do believe they are part of something organised, probably from outside the area."

However, Social and Democratic Labour Party councillor, Joe Byrne, from Omagh, while condemning the boycott, thinks loyalists simply do not understand the depth of Catholic feeling provoked by the week of unionist civil actions during Drumcree. These were often tolerated by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

"Basically nationalists without strong political affiliations have felt almost exasperated. They have seen that the institutions of state, such as the police, do not act even-handedly."

DAILY POEM

A Major Road for Romney Marsh

By UA Fanthorpe

It is a kingdom, a continent.
Nowhere is like it.
(Ripe for development)

It is salt, solitude, strangeness.
It is ditches, and windcurled sheep.
It is sky over sky after sky.
(It wants hard shoulders,
Happy Eaters,
Heavy breathing of

HGVs)

It is obstinate hermit trees.
It is small, tractless churches
Huddling under the gale force.
(It wants WCs,
Kwiksaves,
Artics, Ind Est, Incents)

It is the Military Canal
Minding its peaceable business.

Between the Levels and the Marsh.

(It wants investing in roads,

Sigsyne T'DEN,

FSTONE, C'BURY)

It is itself, and different.

(Nt fr lng, Nt fr brg.)

UA Fanthorpe has been short-listed for a Forward Poetry prize, to be announced on the eve of National Poetry Day, Wednesday, 9 October.

In the fifth year of the awards, U A Fanthorpe's *Safe as Houses* (Penterloo) will be pitted against the most recent collections of Scamus Heaney, John Fuller, Charles Boyle, and W N Herbert for the Best Collection award.

Ursula Fanthorpe, who has been described as a "national treasure" by Liz Lochhead, was the first woman to be nominated for the Oxford Professorship of Poetry.

UK accused over Nazi gold

Secret documents released in Britain yesterday appear to refute claims that the Government knew nothing about tons of Nazi gold looted during the Second World War and moved into Swiss banks, Jewish organisations claim.

The papers also indicate that Britain profited from millions of pounds worth of the gold as result of a post-war deal between the Allies and the Swiss government.

The Foreign Secretary, Michael Ruffind, has agreed to look again at claims about the missing millions after publication of the documents by the Labour MP, Greville Janner.

Mr Janner, chairman of the Holocaust Education Trust and vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, accused intelligence agency officials of either a cover-up or incompetence after his initial requests for more information were dismissed.

The development is the latest twist in decades of efforts by Jewish organisations to find out what happened to gold

allegedly taken from Jews by the Nazis.

The eight recently declassified documents released from the US National Archives, date from October 1941 and show British intelligence was concerned about Nazi deposits in Swiss banks throughout the war.

A note from the US Treasury on January 21, 1942, says the British "apparently" regarded references to the gold as secret information.

Investigations were made by the British and Americans in 1945, and the following February a paper was prepared by the Allies which estimated looted gold deposits in Swiss banks at \$400m – \$4bn (£2.5bn) at today's prices.

The latest document, written in May 1956, outlines a post-war deal in which the Swiss agreed to hand over \$60m worth of German gold in return for the Allies waiving any further claims.

Mr Janner said the papers contradicted recent statements by Mr Ruffind and the Defence Secretary, Michael

Portillo, that the intelligence agencies were not aware of having any information on the transfer of the funds.

Mr Janner replied: "Accepting, as of course I do, your own personal bonafides, there can be only two explanations for your being kept in ignorance of the true facts – either someone did not wish you to know them, or the inquiries made were obviously totally inadequate."

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said: "Mr Janner wrote to the Foreign Office a little while ago about these matters."

"We made inquiries and replied saying we were unable to find any information."

"In the light of his most recent letter, received on Friday, we are making further inquiries."

A spokeswoman for the Holocaust Education Trust said the documents were the first evidence that British intelligence knew anything about the looted gold. She said an inquiry could throw up vital information to help trace the money.



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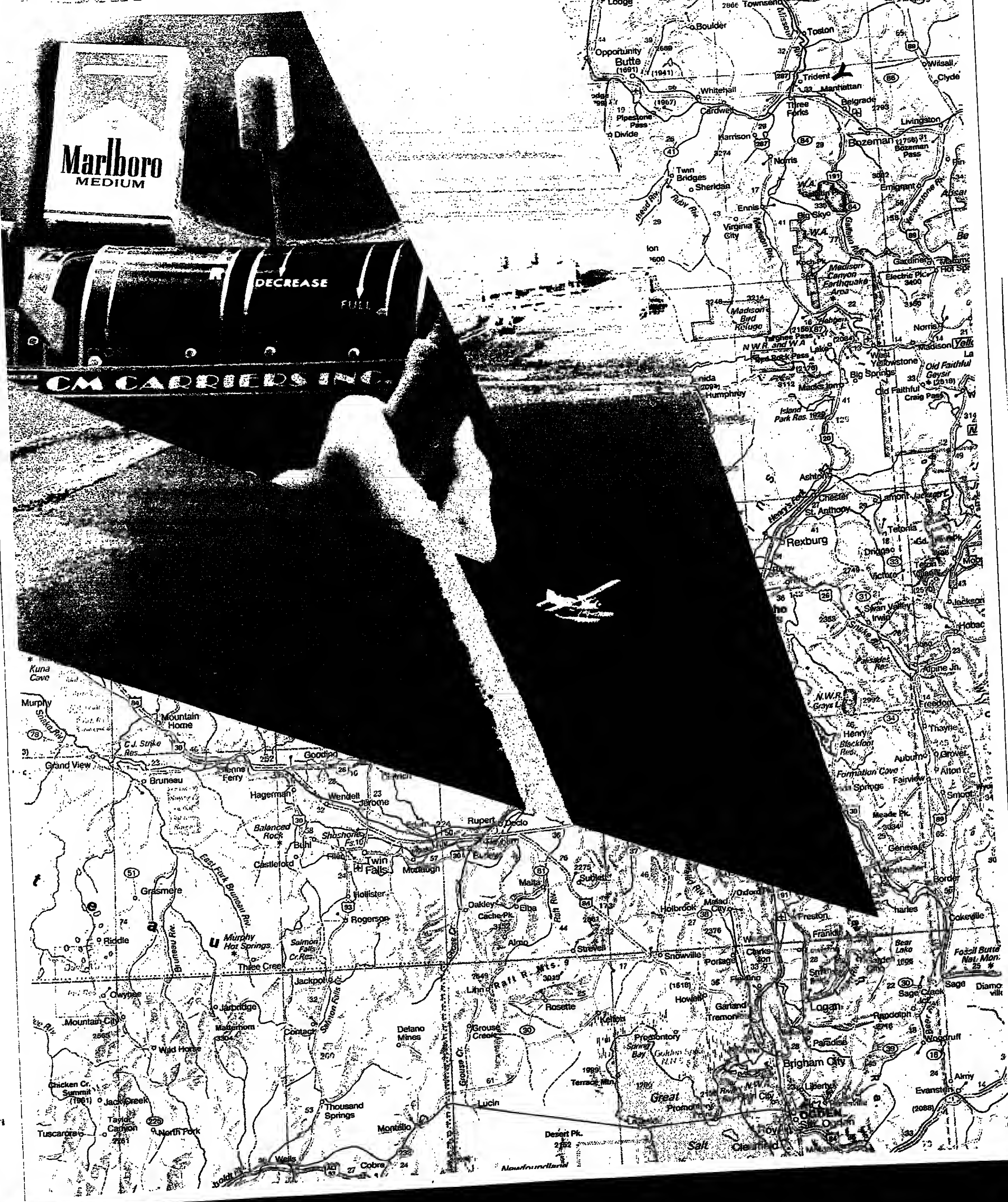
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Terrorism: For Atlanta, it is a terrible shock; but the implications of a bomb on Flight TWA 800 would be far more serious

Olympic spirit bruised but not bowed

World leaders survey return of terror

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

Ministers and security chiefs from the seven richest countries in the world, and Russia, will gather in Paris tomorrow for an anti-terrorist conference that has gained sudden and shocking topicality after the TWA explosion and the bomb at the Atlanta Olympics.

The conference began as a political compromise brokered by France two months ago, largely to prevent the terrorist bombing of US troops in Saudi Arabia from dominating the agenda of the G7's summit in Lyon. Squashed into the days before Europe's long summer holiday, it looked likely to be a mere formality.

Now, all those taking part are faced with graphic evidence of the terrorist threat. Not only have the richest and most powerful state in the world and the most heavily guarded international event shown themselves to be vulnerable, there have also been a resurgence of attacks in Northern Ireland and Spain, and a spate of bomb attacks in Moscow. With memories of the gas attack in the Tokyo Underground and the bombing campaign in France also still fresh, the pressure will be on to agree specific, enforceable measures.

All eight countries will be represented by their foreign and interior ministers, including Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Howard from Britain, and Yevgeni Primakov - a former security chief and now foreign minister - from Russia. Several delegations will also include secret service chiefs. The only foreign minister missing will be Warren Christopher of the US; the State Department will be represented by one of his deputies, Peter Tarnoff.

The basis of the closed-door discussions will be a document with 40 recommendations "to combat transnational organised crime efficiently". These include ways of tracking criminals across national borders, and a plan to create a central authority in each country to deal with requests for information. There are also proposals for easing extradition in cases of terrorism.

Britain is reported to favour restricting asylum for individuals who use their new base to mount campaigns against their home governments. This could curb the activities of people such as the Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Masari.

While international co-operation against terrorism is seen to have improved in recent years, exchange of information is a sensitive matter. Disputes about the Schengen treaty on open borders and security co-operation in Europe have exposed some of the difficulties. While Britain simply refused to join, France - which both signed and ratified the treaty - still does not implement it fully, because of conflicts with the Netherlands over drugs policy and with Italy over border security.

Easing extradition is even more contentious. Sending ETA terrorists from France to Spain, and alleged IRA members from the US to Britain, may have become slightly easier - but political differences and national sympathies frequently dog the process, even before the question of human rights enters the equation.

PHIL DAVISON
Atlanta

For the people of Atlanta, who had looked forward to the centennial Olympic Games for six years, it was, as one of them said, the "end of the innocence". The crude but lethal home-made pipe and nail bomb which ripped through revellers at Centennial Park, social focal point of both the city and the Olympics, on Saturday did not interrupt the Games. But, by killing a Georgia mother, wounding 110 others, including a father-of-two from Norfolk, and causing the fatal heart attack of a Turkish television cameraman, it changed the mood of this city overnight.

"The Olympic spirit is alive and well in Atlanta," International Olympic Committee President Juan Samaranch said yesterday. Alive, yes, residents agreed, but somewhat bruised. The head of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, Billy Payne, said Mr Samaranch had called him after the bombing to say there were three choices: continue the Games, delay them, or call them off. The decision to go on was taken within four hours of the blast.

The show went on. At the weekend venues were 90 per cent full - record Olympic attendances, according to Mr Samaranch - and fans were diverted by the disqualification of England athlete Linford Christie, and three doping cases. But nerves were on edge and huge queues built up as security checks were tightened.

Some fans heeded the organisers' advice and arrived at the Olympic stadium at dawn for the women's marathon race which started at 7am.

The FBI, heading the investigation, confirmed that the bomb was deliberately aimed against people, not property, but said no motive had been uncovered. An advance telephone warning from what sounded like "a white American male" was the only real clue and suspicion fell on racist or anti-government militia groups similar to those suspected of involvement in last year's Oklahoma City bombing.

Despite the "white male" comment, and reflecting sim-



End of the innocence: A woman lies dead after the bomb in Centennial Park, Atlanta. The park was still packed 30 minutes after a warning was received. Photograph: Reuters

mering racial unrest in the South where several black churches have been torched, an unidentified black male was arrested two hours after the blast. Police said he had been seen near the site and had made previous bomb threats but they indicated they did not consider him a serious suspect. The FBI was said to be look-

ing into a small right-wing paramilitary group calling itself the Militia at Large for the Republic of Georgia, which has used similar pipe bombs in the past and reportedly threatened to bomb Olympic sites. Over the last three months, three men linked to the group have been arrested in Georgia and face trial for allegedly plotting to attack

state and federal building and officials. Opinions were split as to whether security personnel had saved scores of lives before the bomb went off or had been slow and uncoordinated in their response. Georgia investigators admitted that agents at the scene had not been informed quickly of the phoned warning.

They discovered the unattended knapsack themselves at the foot of a sound-and-light tower for a late-night concert and began moving people back. But the park was still packed when the device went off at 1.30am, half an hour after the telephoned warning which specified that a bomb was in the park. Revellers at first thought the

blast was the start of a fireworks display. Only after a couple of minutes, when people saw bodies on the ground, did reality sink in. Most people then ducked, thinking someone had been shooting, and raced from the park. Atlantans, visitors and some athletes had crowded the park nightly for free concerts during

the first week of the Games. A concert starring soul singer James Brown and John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers scheduled for Saturday was cancelled after the bombing and the park remained closed until FBI investigators complete their sifting for clues.

Leading article, page 13
John Carlin, page 15

Briton injured in Atlanta nightmare

MATTHEW BRACE

A British gay couple on holiday had a shattering experience when one of them was seriously injured in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park bomb blast early on Saturday morning.

Brian Carr, 53, and Chris Hankinson, 36, both from Freetown, Norfolk, were strolling in front of the bandstand in the park just before the explosion.

Mr Carr was hit by a hail of glass and metal shrapnel and underwent nine hours of emergency brain surgery in Atlanta's Grady Memorial Hospital.

"In a moment our lives have been destroyed," Mr Hankinson said yesterday, in an emotional recounting of events from his partner's bedside.

"I couldn't believe it was real. You have to understand that we felt totally safe and relaxed in Atlanta, and we honestly thought that we could just

disappear into the crowds. We had been visiting a couple of gay bars and we were just having a great party. Everybody was so friendly that we wished we could stay here for ever."

Mr Hankinson recalled seeing people around him fall as they were caught in the blast. "I saw the explosion and heard this enormous bang," he said. "It was as if the ground had opened up and swallowed people - there was just a huge gap appearing in front of us, which had been packed with people."

"A woman beside me became hysterical, and as I tried to comfort her I followed her horrified stare and realised she was looking at Brian. His legs were going, and blood was pouring from his head."

"It was unreal. We had been about 50ft away from the bomb, but it just brought Brian down. No one around us was touched - he took the full force."



Badly hurt: Brian Carr, 53, had nine hours of surgery

"He was in bad shape when they got him into the ambulance. Though he was conscious I don't think he really knew then what had happened, and I don't think he knows even now."

Mr Hankinson said his partner was recovering well after the blast and had taken a few steps around his ward. The hospital said that he was not in a life-threatening condition, though he is likely to remain in intensive care for a week.

The two men met 12 years ago while both were running country pubs in Norfolk. Brian, who was married with a son and daughter, left his wife for a new life with Chris. The trip to Atlanta was to have been their dream holiday together.

Debris discovery suggests bomb blasted TWA plane into pieces

DAVID USBORNE
New York

The discovery of the front section of the TWA airliner which fell from the sky 12 days ago is leading investigators to compare the catastrophe more closely to the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland six years ago.

In a breakthrough, debris from the forward part of the aircraft, containing the first-class cabin, the staircase to the upper deck and the cockpit, were located in an area one-and-a-half miles south-west of the site of the largest amount of wreckage.

The distance between the different piles of wreckage from TWA 800, which exploded en route from New York to Paris, killing all 230 on board, suggests that the forward sections of the aircraft became detached after a violent incident and fell into the sea first. Radar records show that the rest of the aircraft flew on with its engines at full thrust for several seconds before erupting in a fireball.

Officials insisted yesterday that they still could not rule out some extraordinary mechanical misadventure, such as the plane simply breaking apart from previously undetected metal fatigue. There have been several cases where sections of the skin of aeroplanes have peeled away in the middle of a flight.

"Any theory you want to think of is alive," Robert Francis, of the National Transport Safety Board (NTSB), commented. Three possibilities continue to predominate, however: mechanical failure, an explosion caused by a bomb placed in the aircraft, and an explosion caused by a missile strike.

The discovery of the front end of the plane offers one especially plausible scenario: that a bomb was detonated in the forward cargo hold, which instantly detached the first-class and cockpit sections from the rest of the aeroplane.

This has encouraged investigators to look for parallels with Pan Am 103, which was downed by a bomb stowed in the

cargo hold. One source close to the investigation said the mystery of TWA 800 "has a lot of similarities to Pan Am 103".

The electrical controls in a Boeing 747 are just forward of that cargo hold. If the blast was detonated there, it would help to explain why the tapes retrieved from the so-called "black boxes" last week ended abruptly with an unexplained loud noise and why thereafter there was no further data or communication from the pilots.

Experts in aviation security have noted in recent days that the scanning of freight and mail placed in the cargo holds of jetliners represents a particularly weak link in the safety chain. Responsibility for guaranteeing the contents of the cargo is typically left with the shippers in the United States, not with airlines or airport staff.

The possibility that a missile might have been fired at the aircraft has not been ruled out. Such a missile could have been guided by a heat-seeking or radar system and fired from the

land or a boat out at sea.

Jamie Gorelick, the Deputy Attorney General, confirmed that the missile theory remained in play. "That is one of the theories we are pursuing. Would I say it is likely? I would not, but it is an open theory."

By yesterday, 150 bodies had been retrieved from the ocean and the hopes of finding more were diminishing fast.

Among those who yesterday expressed greater certainty that criminal sabotage lay behind the crash was Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York.

"I think it is fairly well established that it was not mechanical failure," he said.

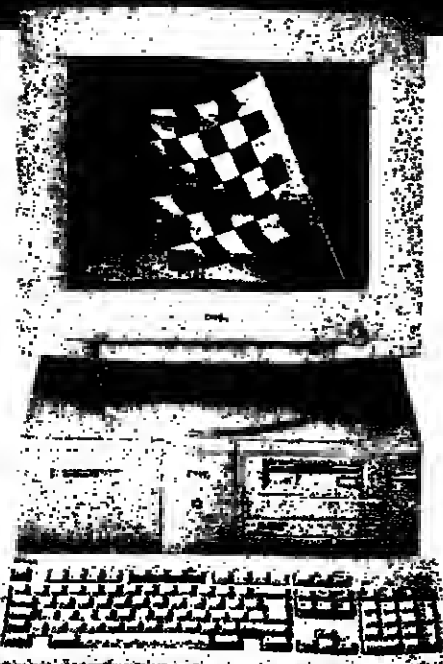
The first sign that mechanical causes have been ruled out as a cause of the disaster will be the transfer of the primary responsibility for the investigation from the safety board to the FBI.

In the meantime, the FBI is conducting a massive, worldwide search for any leads to the possible perpetrators of a terrorism conspiracy.

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Indonesian violence: Marines move in to crush the worst unrest for 30 years, sparked by arrest of pro-democracy supporters

Era of the mobile challenges old order

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Jakarta

It didn't seem likely that the soldiers would be able to tell us much, as my companion pointed out, "in Indonesia, you never know". They were standing along a side-street in central Jakarta, down the road from the burned hanks, the burned car showrooms, and the burned-out government offices which the rioters had fired the previous afternoon.

On Saturday, when the trouble started, the soldiers and riot police were armed only with bamboo batons, and the demonstrators got completely out of control. Today no chances were being taken. As well as their boots, fatigues, and berets (to a rather camp shade of pink), each marine carried a fat black rifle.

They were friendly enough, especially to my companion, a blonde television journalist wearing a striking pair of shorts. But they had nothing to say to us, and after half-a-dozen inconclusive attempts at conversation ("No English!", "No comment!") we headed back towards the car. Suddenly, flashing lights and shrill beeps began issuing from the mobile phone in my belt. It was Martin, an Indonesian teacher whom I had met on Friday, in the headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI). "I left before the police came in, so I was not there, thank God," he said. "But have you heard about the deaths? My friend knows a doctor, and he told me that they were not police, but command-

dos in disguise, and when they went in, they had bayonets hidden in their clothes. Once they were inside, they started stabbing our people. There were 47 killed, and this morning they took the bodies out in amphibious vehicles and dropped them in the sea. No, I don't know who saw this. No, I have no evidence. The evidence is in the hospitals, and nobody can get into hospitals."

"My friend told me ...". "I didn't see this, but ...". Since the PDI headquarters was raided on Saturday morning, Jakarta has been huzzing with rumours relayed across the city by hundreds of mobile phones. Taxi-bound in sweating traffic jams, in chilly air-conditioned hotel rooms, nervously watching the demonstrators pressing up against the police cordons - suddenly the little black box will squeak and flash with a new piece of intelligence from a friend or contact, always exciting, usually unreliable, often completely untrue. The PDI leader, Megawati Sukarnoputri, will give a press conference at 5 o'clock (it never happened). There's a riot outside the Indonesian Legal Aid Centre (it was broken up two hours ago). And, most insistent and unprovable of all, the rumours of a massacre. These rumours contain an exact figure (47, 48, 170 or 200 dead) and a vague, but plausible, attribution (a doctor or "friend"). They are impossible to verify.

All week I have been marvelling at what a versatile and liberating device the mobile phone is. In Jakarta, for several reasons, it is indispensable. In

a city of a million traffic jams, it can transform a frustrating baste in the back of an idling taxi into a productive gossip-and-intelligence-gathering session. Apart from this, almost every diplomat, political activist and journalist in Indonesia seems to believe their phone is lapped: whether this is true or just self-dramatisation, the mobile provides a refreshing sense of anonymity and security. "Maybe I'm just paranoid," people smile sheepishly. "But you never know."

A striking change has come over Jakarta in the past week, but whatever the challenge, the mobile phone is equal to it. I hired mine last Tuesday for the third meeting of the Asian Re-

gional Forum, a serious-minded international think-in featuring foreign ministers from 20 countries. For the first few days, the phone was the traditional yuppie accessory - a tool for securing interviews and opening windows in the schedules of diplomats and press officers. But on Friday, the ministers flew home. On Saturday, the army went into the PDI, and overnight the phone was transformed from a servant of rulers to a tool of the oppressed.

One man who has spent most of the past three days in his cellular is Laksamana Sukardi, treasurer of the PDI. Having fixed up an interview (via mobile), I went to see him at

his home on Friday evening, 12 hours before the storming of his headquarters and arrest of more than 100 of his colleagues. Mr Sukardi doesn't look like a dissident; he looks like a wealthy banker turned management consultant, which is exactly what he is. But in his twin roles of businessman and opposition politician, he epitomises the double-edged potential of the mobile phone. "The world is changing so fast," he says, "and this is what the government fails to appreciate. Indonesians now are different from Indonesians 10 years ago, and the change has rendered the old system obsolete. The most important thing you need to maintain power is

control of information. If you're alone, isolated, you're scared. If you can communicate, even across an archipelago of 200 million people, you get courage. The young generation of Indonesians is better informed than the government. They have cellular phones, they have the Internet. Even the climate is changing, and all these changes have rendered the old system obsolete. If the Indonesian government doesn't change, it will become like a dinosaur, a big powerful animal that cannot adjust."

But the dinosaur still has teeth and, like many elderly life forms, its behaviour is unpredictable. Three hours after the soldiers had been in and

Anarchy warning by chief of army

Jakarta — The commander of the Indonesian armed forces warned of the danger of anarchy yesterday and soldiers made more than 30 arrests a day after riots left at least two people dead and a dozen buildings in the centre of Jakarta gutted. They were the worst disturbances for 30 years, writes Richard Lloyd Parry.

In a statement broadcast on national radio, General Faisal Tanjung blamed the violence on "irresponsible people and groups whose activities are devoted to a kind of anarchy".

Soldiers and marines carrying rifles patrolled the streets close to the offices of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), where 176 supporters of the ousted PDI chairman, Megawati Sukarnoputri, were arrested after police broke up a month-long sit-in on Saturday morning.

There were sporadic incidents of violence and dozens of arrests yesterday, although nothing to compare with Saturday's violence.

Forty people, including a BBC cameraman, were struck with batons when riot police charged 250 demonstrators outside the offices of the Indonesian Legal Aid Centre. Some 12 people were arrested. In the Salemba district, near the University of Indonesia, a dozen more bleeding protesters were driven away in army trucks after a clash with marines in the burned-out offices of a phone company.

There were varying rumours about the number of people killed over the weekend but the military commander for Jakarta, Major-General Sutiyoso, said that, in addition to injuries to 26 people, there were two deaths: a man who died after jumping from a burning bank building and another who suffered a heart attack during the disturbances.

Photograph: Reuters

Counter putsch: Armoured personnel carriers and soldiers carrying rattan shields disperse activists in Jakarta



Mystery over death of Algerian terror chief

ROBERT FISK
Beirut

The reported killing of Djamel Zitouni, the most ruthless of all Algeria's guerrilla leaders, has provided further evidence of upheaval within the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), whose nightmarish campaign of kidnapping and decapitations has traumatised the country throughout its five-year civil war.

The death of Zitouni, who was held responsible for a bloody Air France hijacking at Algiers airport 18 months ago and the beheading of seven abducted French priests in May, was announced in an unauthenticated statement from the GIA's *majlis es-shoura*, or consultative council.

According to the movement, he was shot dead in an army ambush on 16 July; but the statement failed to mention that on 15 July it had issued a communiqué announcing Zitouni's banishment from the GIA and promising to "judge" him for his activities.

This weekend's statement is bound to raise suspicion that the GIA killed its own leader because it disagreed with his decision to murder the priests and countless other civilians.

But Zitouni's death - if it is confirmed - does not mean an end to the civil war that has claimed up to 60,000 lives. There is no official figure for the total number of casualties - including those who have died under police torture and by alleged government death-



Djamel Zitouni: As elusive in death as he was in life

squads - but in just one week last month, 50 Algerians were listed as killed, including 16 village "guards", 10 civilians blown up by a bomb at a Blida café and 20 armed rebels, perhaps including Zitouni himself.

Zitouni - the 29-year old son of a chicken farmer who worked in his father's shop in the Algiers suburb of Birkhadem - originally fell under the influence of Moustapha Bouyali, the former FLN commander who was killed in an army ambush in 1987.

He went underground after the government's cancellation of a second round of democratic elections - which were sure to have been won by Islamists in have been won by Islamists in

1992. Zitouni was given - in 1992 - Zitouni's "Phalange of Death" squad and became "emir" of the entire movement when its leader, Cherif Gousmi, died in October, 1994. He personally claimed re-

sponsibility for the Air France hijacking and for a wave of human attacks in France in the summer of 1995. He also allegedly wrote a 62-page book - possibly ghost-written by colleagues - on early fundamentalists and the "duties of holy warriors".

Nevertheless, in a war whose undercover armies - both government and insurrectionist - have sought to cause confusion among their enemies, Zitouni's death cannot be confirmed.

This weekend's statement purporting to come from the *majlis es-shoura*, for example, claims that a militant identified as Antar Zouabri has taken over the leadership. Yet the 15 July communiqué claimed that Zouabri had been thrown out of the GIA's national council following the murder of two other guerrilla leaders last year.

Zitouni's death had already been "confirmed" by the Algerian newspaper *Al-Wakef* in March 1995, months before he organised the French bombings and more than a year before the kidnapping of the French monks.

Zitouni was as mysterious in life as he appears to be in death, dutifully following what one Algerian who knew him claimed to be a *hadith* of the Prophet Muhammad, which urged Muslims to surround their every action in secrecy. Only one photograph of Zitouni is known to exist, but even this may be of his brother. In death as in life, it seems, he will continue to haunt Algeria.

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12

international

Turkish prisoners end hunger strike as twelfth man dies

SUNA ERDEM
Reuters

Istanbul — A prisoners' hunger strike has once more cast the spotlight on Turkey's human rights record, drawing widespread protest. Prisoners struck a deal with Turkey's government on Saturday to end the 69-day hunger strike that claimed 12 prisoners' lives and triggered riots around Turkey. Mediators brokered an agreement with about 900 inmates, at Istanbul's Bayrampasa prison, who are considered to be the ringleaders of the hunger strike taken up by 2,000 inmates in prisons across Turkey.

More than 300 prisoners immediately halted their protest, but human rights workers said about 20 lives were still at risk. A spokesman for the Independent Human Rights Association said: "About 150 people are in hospital — around 20 of them in critical condition."

The hunger strike is the biggest crisis to confront the new Islamist-led government since it took power four weeks ago. It inherited the problem from the previous government but as the fast dragged on, demonstrations mushroomed around the country and prominent actors, musicians and writers added weight to the criticism.

Of equal concern to the government is the reaction of Europe, which keeps a close eye on Turkey's human rights record as it seeks closer ties with the European Union. After the first death of the hunger strike, last Sunday, the EU called on Ankara to end the fast or risk damaging ties which have often been strained by issues such as torture in Turkish prisons and the army's conduct in suppressing a Kurdish separatist insurgency.

Hans van den Broek, the European Commissioner for External Affairs, wrote to the Turkish Foreign Minister, Tanis Ciller, urging her to prevent



Critical: An prisoner is rushed to hospital yesterday at the end of the 69th day of hunger strikes

Photograph: Fethi Sariba

further deaths, in what diplomats saw as a thinly veiled reminder of Ankara's promise to improve its human rights record in exchange for a lucrative customs deal with Europe.

Germany called on Turkey to push through promised improvements in jail conditions as quickly as possible. Germany, home to 2.2 million Turks, has

seen a series of firebomb attacks on Turkish properties which police believe is the work of militant supporters of the strike.

Growing pressure from the shantytowns, where most of the leftist prisoners came from, also weighed on the ruling Welfare Party. Its votes come from the poor and the devout. "The death fasts carried the reactions

to the shanties. And the shanties are Welfare's powerbase," said Ali Kirci, a columnist. Even the pro-Islamist press criticised the Welfare Party for taking up the tough line of previous administrations.

The hunger strike began in May after the Justice Minister Sevtik Kacan's predecessor tried to break up what he said

was the leftist inmates' control of some jails by transferring prisoners and bringing in restrictions. The prisoners' anger was further stoked by the appointment of Mehmet Agar, also a former hardline police chief, to the post of Interior Minister.

The new Welfare-led government came to power amid hopes that its vague philosophy

of Islamist brotherhood could signal a change from years of human rights abuses. But the government will now be under even greater pressure to show that it can buck the trend and improve human rights.

"Welfare's trial by fire has begun," Kirci said. "It is in its hands to find the water to put the fire out."

Hunt begins for accomplice in backpack murders

ROBERT MILLIKEN
Sydney

Australian police are likely to reopen their investigation into the deaths of two British women, Caroline Clarke and Joanne Walters, and five other young hitch-hikers, following a judge's finding that Ivan Milat, the man convicted of the "backpack murders", probably had an accomplice.

A Sydney jury on Saturday found Milat, a 51-year-old road worker, guilty of the seven murders and of kidnapping Paul Onions, another British back-

packer, who escaped after Milat pulled a gun on him in January 1990. Before sentencing Milat to seven life prison sentences for the murders, and another six years for the kidnapping, Mr Justice David Hunt said: "I agree entirely with those verdicts. Any other, in my view, would have flown in the face of reality."

The judge added: "The jury's verdicts mean that the prisoner was involved, either alone or in company, in a criminal enterprise to pick up [the backpackers] and then to murder them all. In my view, it is

inevitable that the prisoner was not alone, in that criminal enterprise."

Ian Lloyd, the Sydney QC who advised police in 1994 that there was enough evidence to charge Milat, said yesterday that Milat's conviction did not mean necessarily that the case was closed. Police investigators added that, in the light of evidence revealed during the four-month trial, their inquiries would continue and that others could be charged.

Those inquiries would almost certainly embrace the Milat family. Terry Martin,

Milat's barrister, put forward a defence at the trial based on mistaken identity. He conceded that the serial killer probably came from the Milat family, but that it was more likely to be one of Ivan's younger brothers, Richard, 40, or Walter, 44, acting alone or together. Both denied any involvement.

Ivan Milat, the man who perpetrated Australia's most sensational and gruesome serial killings, was being branded yesterday the "Beast of Belanglo", after the Belanglo State Forest, south of Sydney, where he murdered the British, German and

Australian backpackers after picking them up on the Hume Highway between December 1989 and April 1992.

Ivan Milat is the fifth oldest in a family of 14. His father was a Yugoslav immigrant. He and his brothers, Richard and Walter, are gun-lovers. When police raided their homes and arrested Ivan in May 1994, they found crates of ammunition and guns. At his house they found the bolt of a rifle that had been used to shoot Ms Clarke, as well as her camera and a rope with her blood on it.

Milat's trial almost came un-

stuck a week before the jury of seven men and four women delivered their verdict. On 19 July, the 12th juror stood down after he received a death threat. The judge kept it secret until after the verdict. According to Mr Justice Hunt, the juror received a telephone call at home, in which a man said: "If you find my ... him guilty, you're dead."

Last night, the juror appeared on television, his face and voice distorted. Asked if he believed the threat came from one of Milat's brothers, whom he saw in the witness box, he replied: "The voice, it could be."

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Royal return lifts spirits in nation starved of hope

LOCAL
HEROES



No 28: Simeon Coburg-Gotha

When Simeon Coburg-Gotha decided to return to his Bulgarian homeland earlier this summer, he knew he would receive a warm welcome from the various monarchist groups who still think of him as their lawful king. He also knew he would be snubbed by Bulgaria's Socialist rulers.

But nothing prepared him for what actually happened: that hundreds of thousands of ordinary Bulgarians would turn out to cheer him wherever he went and that many would look on him as some sort of Messiah who had arrived to save the struggling Balkan country.

"I am overwhelmed by emotion," Mr Coburg-Gotha — alias King Simeon II — said, as half a million people lined the streets to give him a hero's return to Sofia. "The bitterness of 50 years of exile has been deleted in one day."

Simeon was only nine years old when he was forced to flee from Bulgaria following the Communist takeover of power in 1946. But in his long years of exile, at first in Egypt and then in Spain, he always kept a candle burning for the land of his early childhood.

A successful business consultant in Madrid, he never lost the ability to speak Bulgarian, one of eight languages in which he is fluent. He gave Bulgarian names to his five children.

Nor did he ever formally abdicate, claiming that the phlebotomy of 1946 which declared Bulgaria was a republic had been rigged. "I have been king all my life," the now balding and bearded Simeon said in Sofia. "One can be on active duty or on standby but one is never off [duty]."

The country could certainly do with all the help it can get. Among the laggards of the economic reform process in Eastern Europe, Bulgaria this year witnessed a sharp drop in the value of the national currency, the lev, prompting massive withdrawals of personal savings.

While the politicians have hickered, crime has run rampant. Wheat shortages have been so severe that for the first time since 1989, Bulgarians have had to queue for bread.

For the monarchists, the answer is clear. "We have no leader in Bulgaria now to inspire and guide us. Only His Majesty can unify the country and build a new national consensus," said Konstantin Halachev, of the Federation Kingdom Bulgaria. Less obsequious Bulgarians also feel that, with his business acumen and Western contacts, Simeon could only be an improvement on the current leaders. As Albena Vasileva, a student in Sofia, put it: "He is different. He speaks positively. He is less Balkan and more European. I'd be happy if he replaced the face of my country."

Despite their personal approval of Simeon, a majority of Bulgarians remain wary of restoring the monarchy. That said, many would approve Simeon as President.

Unlike most of Eastern Europe's deposed monarchs, Simeon, still only 59, is young enough to contemplate an active career in politics. He has already indicated that he might have a stab at the presidency if that was his only option.

Now back in Madrid, he is carefully considering his next move. But in a newspaper interview earlier this month, he served notice on Bulgaria's Socialist rulers that they can expect to see him again soon.

"I believe that all of you, dear compatriots, are aware that my unprecedented visit was not an accident or the product solely of curiosity and nostalgic feelings," he said. "The hope and trust which I felt everywhere, especially from our wonderful young people, cannot be lightly swept aside and needs also to be evaluated by those in power."

Adrian Bridge

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Politically connected "mafia" lie behind the Bosnian Croat boycott of election results which were intended to reunite the Bosnian city of Mostar, but the West will not tolerate the blockade, a senior mediator said. The deputy international High Representative in Bosnia said UN police backed by Nato peace troops would move into Croat-held west Mostar if needed to support a new city council, where Moslems won a 21-17 seat majority.

Michael Steiner said that some of the right-wing gangsters who took over west Mostar during a 1993-94 war for a separatist Croat state could well "appear on the list of indicted war criminals" in the near future. The European Union has set a 4 August deadline for an end to the Bosnian Croat boycott. *Reuters - Sarajevo*

A possible super-typhoon raged east of the Philippines. Less than 24 hours after typhoon Gloria battered the country's main Luzon island, killing at least 39 people. The country's main typhoon belt, called Herb, blew over the Pacific Ocean with new cyclone of 90 mph and could gain strength as it headed towards this typhoon-prone country. Herb was located last night 625 miles east-south-east of the northernmost Philippine island of Batanes and was forecast to move west towards the Batanes and Taiwan area. *Reuters - Manila*

West African nations are taking a tough line against Liberia's warlords as they move to extricate themselves from the bloody civil war as quickly as possible. On Saturday, heads of state who had gathered at the annual summit of the Economic Community of West African states (ECOWAS) agreed that elections should be held without complete disarmament, but with threats against any warring faction leaders who block the process. *Reuters - Abuja*

Russia paraded its naval might before the world's highest seafaring nations to mark the 300th anniversary of the foundation of its fleet. Thousands of tourists and locals marvelled at warships from Russia, the United States, Britain, France, Canada, India, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland. A decade ago, about 480,000 Russian navy personnel ran a force of 370 submarines — 50 of them nuclear and had 290 main warships and 700 minor attack boats. According to Western estimates, staffing is down to 270,000, submarine numbers have been slashed and the main warship fleet totals about 150. *Reuters - St Petersburg*

The wife of a convicted American Jewish spy, Jonathan Pollard, launched a hunger strike, saying that anti-Semitism in the US was a factor in the failure to win his freedom after a decade in prison. Esther Pollard announced her fast at an outdoor square in the heart of Jerusalem saying she would only take water until the release of her husband, a former US navy intelligence analyst who was jailed for life for passing secrets to Israel. President Bill Clinton on Friday denied clemency to Pollard, who has been in jail since 1985. *Reuters - Jerusalem*

Sri Lankan security forces said they plan to attack S. Norther Tamil rebel strongholds in their latest thrust, as the guerrillas said that more than 100,000 civilians had fled the targeted town of Kilinochchi. An army spokesman said that troops were consolidating their positions after capturing the town of Paranthan, just south of the Elephant Pass base at the neck of the northern Jaffna peninsula, the rebels' former stronghold. *Reuters - Colombo*

Canadian \$2 coins, valued at C\$3m and weighing as much as 60 tonnes, are the objects of a police search after a truck carrying the coins was hijacked eight days ago. In what the Royal Canadian mint is calling the largest theft of coins in the country's history, bold thieves entered a railroad yard in central Montreal during the day, found a tractor-trailer which was carrying 1.5 million \$2 coins and the drove off. *Reuters - Montreal*

Burundi's new ruler said he was halting expulsions of Rwandan Hutu refugees in a move apparently aimed at defusing international criticism of his takeover of power in a coup.

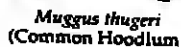
Major Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, said his government would not force Rwandan Hutus to go back to the homeland which they had fled in fear of retribution for the mass killings of Rwandan Tutsis by Hutus in 1994. *Reuters - Bujumbura*



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Breathe deep, count to ten, then react

In the aftermath of the bomb in Atlanta the priority is to keep a sense of proportion. It's always tempting to manufacture a panic. You extrapolate from one tragic event, one bounded very precisely by time and place, and create a looming threat. The Atlanta bomb, let's be clear, is one-off. It is unrelated to recent attacks in Dhahran and Moscow or bombing in Spanish resorts. It says nothing about the chances of the IRA striking again on the British mainland – or whether the thwarting of political pluralism in Suharto's Indonesia will give rise to political violence there. Acts of terror may occur worldwide but there is no great, global force called terrorism.

Second, however great the revulsion caused by the incident in Atlanta, the response has to be measured. There are few ways in which security can be tightened around the Olympic Games themselves; the bomb in Centennial Park was outside the security zone. But there are ways in which governments, including the American government, could overreact – and threaten the fundamental freedoms on which civil society rests.

Clinching evidence is still awaited on the cause of the crash of TWA Flight 800. Even if it was a bomb, there is nothing to link it with Atlanta. Nor ought confirmation that the flight was downed by a terrorist act provoke ill-considered actions. Holiday-makers ought not suddenly to cancel nor busi-

ness travellers reroute away from Kennedy airport. Nor will they. Most sensible people will continue to fly.

It is not that they sit down and make a calculus of risk, people judge these things pragmatically. And the pragmatic judgement must be that little has changed. Most travellers would resent the further delays caused by an undue tightening of screening and baggage checks. While airline security may be of special concern in the United States – where screening techniques appear to be out of date – recent events call, on this side of the Atlantic, for nothing more than continued vigilance.

If the perpetrators of the Atlanta blast are found to belong to some domestic American insurgency the point to be reinforced is that "terrorism" is no monolith, no international conspiracy. Most terrorist acts are rooted inside particular national and historical contexts. No random act of bombing can ever be justified; but there is no point, either, in pretending all terrorists are alike. Behind the Manchester bomb is an Irish organisation, with objectives confined to the triangle of the Republic, Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Bombs on buses in Jerusalem or under cars in Madrid are the work of groups with attributes incomprehensible outside the specific histories of Israel and the Palestinians or Spain since Franco. Stopping such terrorism is never just about police offi-



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cers and patrols. At some stage the Israeli foreign minister has to sit down with President Assad of Syria. It is hard to see ETA being extinguished without someone talking to someone else in San Sebastian.

For its part, the Turkish government might agree with this line of argument. It might say: the harshness which has led to hunger strikes, death and the threat of armed assault on prisoners has to do with the nature of terrorism in that country, whether perpetrated by the hard left or the Kurds. It takes, the Turks might say, strong measures to protect national integrity and there is

no gainsaying the importance of Turkish integrity in a region left unstable by the dissolution of the Soviet Union. But repression has a terrible habit of breeding terrorism. Besides, Turkey wants to evolve into a trading nation based on principles of legality and individual rights: that is the only possible basis for its application to join the European Union. Its dilemma, like that of all governments including Britain's, is how to protect against terrorist acts without breaching norms of decency and proper procedure.

The answer is that there is a balance to be struck between protection of the

public, the power of the state and maintenance of individual rights. That equilibrium remains as precious after Atlanta as before. The passage, 20 years ago, of the (supposedly temporary) Prevention of Terrorism Act tipped the balance in this country in favour of government and its police and security forces. Once the state acquires new powers they tend to become encrusted and permanent, despite lack of evidence of their effectiveness. In the United States, a parallel example might be the federal government's power to eavesdrop on phone conversations: one of the casualties of the Oklahoma bombing has been the reticence of judges to question applications from law enforcement agencies for permits to tap phones.

That the maintenance of liberty requires us constantly to be on our guard is a hoary old cliché. It needs updating. Maintenance of liberty in an age of terrorism requires collective self-restraint in order not to overreact, together with patience. Long experience of bombs directed against civilian targets tells us two things. Perpetrators can be found and convicted: what it takes is dedicated detective work, often of a traditional kind, not great armoured forces of new and intrusive state powers.

But no amount of police effort can substitute for the force of public opinion. The state is only as effective as civil society allows it to be: policing that is too aggressive or intrusive is self-

defeating if it stirs up resentments and non-co-operation. Terrorists usually need domestic assistance. Even in a country as haggard and mobile as the United States, the public is often its own best protector. Yet the public's safety margins are wide – they may be prepared to tolerate a great deal more threat and risk than governments and newspaper commentators realise.

Time to scotch a taxing myth

Duty-frees are the point of the European Union. If that sounds too Euro-friendly, duty-frees are the point of the North American Free Trade Area. In other words, a customs union evolving into a free trade area entails the abolition of boundary taxation, such as excise duties.

Make no mistake then about what you are hearing from the International Duty Free Confederation as it gears up its campaign on behalf of ferry operators. It wants us to continue paying £12 for a bottle of Scotch in Dover and £9 in Calais so that paying £10.50 on a boat looks like a bargain. It's not. The only real bargain is when, allowing for costs, the Scotch costs much the same in Genoa as it does in Glenfiddich and we can buy as much as we like where we like.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Britten's music will stand the test of time

Sir: It is unfortunate for Malcolm Williamson ("Queen's musician in attack on Britten", 26 July) that, despite considerable experience in the musical profession, he seems unable to recognise that two-faced double dealing is a feature of the industry and not the sole preserve of megalomaniac composers.

While it is fascinating to unearth alleged truths about long and not-so-long dead composers, inclusive of all manner of sexual deviancy, it is not a particularly useful defence or justification for Williamson's "ephemeral" comment.

Like every composer, Britten's musical popularity will always be subject to fashion. Whatever sleaze is unearthed about him now will not alter a note of his scores. Surely it is hypocrisy to change our opinion of his art because he broke the conventions of morality. Since when have concepts of art and morality sat comfortably together?

If this century's most treasured British composer is to lose favour with the establishment then let it be for musical reasons. Tomorrow there will be another front page to fill with sordid revelations and captivating headlines: there will never be another Peter Grimes.

MARTIN PARKER

Stafford

Sir: Malcolm Williamson's remarks concerning the relationship between E.M. Forster and Benjamin Britten need some qualification.

I write as one of the few survivors of the original cast of *Billy Budd* (Covent Garden, December 1951) and I well remember Forster coming on stage during the rehearsals filled with enthusiasm for what we were achieving. He was, of course, co-librettist with Eric Crozier of that opera six years after *Peter Grimes*.

My own experience in working with the composer on several other first performances and much else besides certainly belies the impression given in Marianne Macdonald's article. Above all, Britten's sheer professionalism, and his appreciation of it in his performers, is an abiding memory.

There are four commercial recordings of *Peter Grimes* available and I believe another of *Billy Budd* comes out next year. Ephemeral?

BRYAN DRAKE
Aldingham
Suffolk

Sir: Unlike Malcolm Williamson, I don't feel able to establish how future generations will receive Benjamin Britten's music. I nevertheless wish to point out that the tendency at present seems to contradict his rather assertive forecast.

Music lovers from many countries come to the UK to see Britten operas. It is also a fact that these operas are being increasingly presented abroad (not only in Europe but also in the Americas) with great success. I presume that the opinion of foreigners is of absolutely no importance to Williamson and the Aldeburgh town council, but it is a good indicator of the way in which a composer has succeeded in appealing to human beings, beyond the boundaries of the prejudices which the Master of the Queen's Music seems so eager to exploit.

AGUSTIN BLANCO BAZAN
London NW8

GONE WITH THE WIND



Negotiate an end to the tube strike

Sir: Further to Barrie Clement's article (25 July), the underground dispute is not, and never has been, a political dispute, so far as RMT is concerned. It seems to me strange that those trade union officials that Mr Clement alleges are out to "smash capitalism" should start with one of the few industries left in the public sector.

For the record, RMT is the largest union in the rail industry because we have an excellent reputation for professional negotiations. Far from being class warriors, our strategy is simple. We listen to our members. The tube strike is a good example. Last May we put London Underground's offer to our members in a referendum ballot and only eight drivers out of nearly 1,000 voted to accept it.

This should have been the clearest signal to LUL management that they had got things badly wrong but they refused to listen. Eventually we were left with no option but to ballot members again but this time for industrial action. Eighty-five per cent of our driver members voted for industrial action, after LUL made clear they were refusing to honour their promise to reduce the working week. With profits up 699m, driver productivity up more than 4 per cent and LUL's management getting a 20 per cent bonus for improved performance our members have kept their side of the bargain. The simple fact is that LUL will not keep theirs.

Alleging that RMT negotiators are motivated by personal dislike of LUL's management is totally unfair, if not insulting. My

negotiating team has always adopted a professional approach. So far in 1996 we have agreed more than 30 separate pay deals with all kinds of different managements. The reason why we cannot reach agreement with LUL is because, unlike these other rail employers, they have reneged on a promise.

Far from being a political conspiracy this dispute has all the hallmarks of a cock-up. The latest evidence of this comes in LUL's claim, made on 25 July, that they had made a "new" offer. This "new" offer was precisely the proposal upon which RMT has already balloted its members and which was rejected with an 85 per cent majority. If LUL do not understand their own proposals it is little wonder the dispute has dragged on.

We at RMT will never let personalities get in the way of a settlement, and in this light I will repeat my plea to LUL to come to ACAS and negotiate, and the sooner the better as far as my members and the travelling public of London are concerned.

JAMES KNAPP
General Secretary
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers
London NW1

Oxford must vote in favour of £20m

Sir: Richard Dawkins' (letter, 25 July) new post in the Public Understanding of Science can be viewed as a form of management studies. In this case management of

public opinion in relation to science (and, as he would like to think, religion). It is certainly distinct from the academic research and teaching functions of the rest of Oxford University, and many colleagues would have preferred the Charles Simonyi benefaction, which largely funds the post, to be used for something else – especially as Professor Dawkins continues to occupy academic facilities with valuable alternative uses.

Moreover, the Simonyi benefaction was not sufficient immediately to fund the post in full, and the university was thus sucked into an obligation to find some thousands of pounds in order to permit Professor Dawkins' appointment.

If, before setting out to vote against the Said benefaction, Professor Dawkins were able briefly to suspend his contempt for religious precepts, he might care to consider Matthew vii, 3, on motives and beams.

PETER M OPPENHEIMER
Christ Church, Oxford

Sir: When faced with whinging from people such as Alexander Murray and Richard Dawkins (letters, 24 and 25 July), why do millionaires such as Waqif Said continue to bestow their wealth on the already rich universities in the West? Surely there are more deserving places in the educationally impoverished Third World which would not only gain greater benefit but might also accept such gifts with grace and good humour.

AYYUB MALIK
London W14

Common sense vs modish ideas

Sir: I have just completed over twenty years involved in running divisions of major corporations in the UK and have been actively involved in developing ideas as well as receiving them ("Tied to the stake of modish ideas", 26 July).

There are many facts that appear whenever a writer (usually American) wants to reap the rewards of an active brain. It is the ability of businessmen and women to understand those ideas and (through common sense) develop their own response to them that can differentiate their business from the competition.

The trend amongst too many in the UK is to use total scepticism as an excuse for doing nothing different. Innovation and creativity are nothing new but management thinkers since Taylor have made people think more or think again. Whether you agree with the likes of Tom Peters or Charles Handy or not, they provoke thought and can help to generate ideas.

If technology were to progress by "common sense" alone we would be nowhere near where we are today. Science proceeds through hypothesis to theory via experience. Why should it be so different when it comes to the far more complex problem of developing ways for people to work, be creative and fulfilled? The US has shown a tremendous business spirit and creative upsurge in the last few years that has corresponded with a generation of

management thoughts and ideas. We in the UK should be encouraging ourselves to take part by using our brains to assess which are relevant and which are not – rather than ridiculing the lot.

JEFF KAYE
101714.2216@CompuServe.COM

NHS fundholding wastes resources

Sir: Graham Blincoe (letter, 27 July) is wrong to claim that fundholding makes the best use of limited NHS resources.

In Oxfordshire, fundholders have accumulated £3.5m of unspent savings. If they have any plans to spend it, such plans are mainly for extensions to surgery buildings. Meanwhile, the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital is cutting down on elective surgery for ophthalmology patients and lengthening waiting times, in breach of the Patients' Charter. It is baving to do this because of a shortfall of half a million pounds in the funding available from Oxfordshire Health Authority.

The direct administrative costs of fundholding in Oxfordshire were £1m in 1994-95; they will be higher now. Most of fundholders' savings in Oxfordshire now come from the budget for hospital services – but a study in the Oxford region shows that the rate of referral to hospital by fundholding practices has actually increased over time. This calls into question the validity of the budget-setting process.

Fundholding wastes NHS resources, is inequitable, and should be ended.

Dr DUNCAN KEELEY
Thame, Oxfordshire

Faith in the future of Africa

Sir: Your analysis of the developing crisis in Burundi (26 July) ignores the concrete initiatives that are being taken in Africa and how these can be applied in Burundi.

The most important of these initiatives is that announced in the Spring by the United Nations. Led by the World Bank and the UN Development Programme, it will co-ordinate the work of 28 UN agencies, along with countless NGOs. Education, health and the secure access to clean water are its largest components but it is not confined to these. It links them with programmes in peace-building, conflict resolution and national reconciliation; good governance; supporting an independent press; and stimulating domestic savings. Dare I introduce the concept of a "stakeholder economy"? And the debt issue will be re-addressed.

Together these set out to encourage in the minds of Africans a faith in the future and, of course, an identity with the present. Your opinion of self-induced "ethnic cleansing" leading to mass relocation and the redrawing of national boundaries has no place in such a programme.

This UN system-wide initiative fully recognises the menacing obstacles which today's Burundi manifests but these are obstacles confronted by all societies that settle for the unrivalled benefits that accrue from a pluralistic society. Think, in passing, how neighbouring Zaire might sub-divide if each of its 300-plus languages was to be granted a space of its own!

The 1996 Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Programme indicates the distance that many African nations must travel to attain a quality of life that is now generally agreed as acceptable. It also shows how and where we have failed in achieving for that continent what we have sought. So, not through liberal-minded philanthropy, or post-colonial guilt should we return to the fray, but because the obstacles can be convincingly overcome if only we put our collective minds to it.

DAVID WARDROP
United Nations Association
London W1

Running trains the BR way

Sir: Your business comment (24 July) claims it would take incompetence on a grand scale not to run rail franchises more efficiently and profitably than British Rail, even with smaller subsidies. That is demonstrably unfair.

John MacGregor, when Transport Secretary, wrote in 1994: "British Rail's record on productivity, service, safety and punctuality is impressive and it is known to run one of the most efficient railway systems in Europe".

In a parliamentary answer last week, the Transport Minister John Widdows acknowledged that the eight franchises let so far will cost the taxpayer £19m more in 1996/97 than if BR were still running them.

BR's downward pressure on expenditure produced a reduction of 5.7 per cent in unit passenger train operating costs in 1995/96, continuing a trend that has been established for many years.

JOHN K WELSBY
Chairman and Chief Executive
British Railways Board
London NW1

14
interview

Why are we walking to work?

David Aaronovitch cross-examines Lew Adams, Aslef's general secretary, and the man who stops London's trains



Caught in the crossfire: The strikes have inconvenienced a lot of people and that we do regret. And I mean that with sincerity

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

"All right", said the man from the train-drivers' union, Aslef, "he'll see you on Thursday at 9.30". I was relieved at first – in an earlier conversation he had hinted that Lew Adams, general secretary of the union, might not do an interview at all. "He's not keen on profiles", I had been told, "he's just a railwayman".

Relief was soon, however, overtaken by a rather large logistical problem. How was I to get to Mr Adams? I would normally have travelled the four miles or so by Tube. But there was, unfortunately, a strike on. The wife had the car and any bus services would get stuck fast in the appalling traffic jams that inevitably accompany rail stoppages.

So, inspired by the examples of Laurie Lee and Patrick Leigh-Fermor, whose walks across Spain and Europe respectively had proved a trea-

sure house of intense experiences, I decided to don a pair of comfortable shoes and go on foot. Leaving an hour and a half for my journey (and packing my mobile phone in case I should get lost in a hostile part of Swiss Cottage) I set out.

There was virtually no traffic. Few people were at the bus-stops. On a sunny morning there were rather more cyclists than usual, a couple of commuting roller-bladers and – inconspicuously – what looked like a fell-runner (looking for a fell, presumably). By and large most Londoners had decided not to bother with work at all. I strolled through empty, sunny streets, up hill and down dale, from the dust of Kentish Town to the heights of Hampstead.

It took only 40 minutes and by the time I arrived at Aslef HQ I had decided that Mr Adams and his members had done me an immense favour; never again would I suffer the

involuntarily shared bodily fluids of rush-hour on the Tube. Thus when the disembodied voice in the entrapment to Aslef's HQ inquired as to who I was, I fancy my voice practically crackled with vigour and good humour. The huge oak door of the magnificent town-house opened and I was shown to a chair in the corridor, opposite a clock which (worryingly for a union of train-drivers) was half an hour fast.

The house, West Brow, was bought by the union shortly after the First World War. It had belonged to the family of Sir Thomas Beecham, the conductor, and had been decorated in the most showy form of art nouveau. Mr Adams himself was to be found behind an impressive door marked "General Secretary. Mr L.D. Adams" in gold lettering.

I was shown into a smallish room with an open door giving out onto a balcony above a beautiful garden. Through this

door came a pleasant breeze, ruffling the paper on the desk in front of me. In a large bookcase, which Hugh Scully would kill for, were several dozen leather-bound books marked "Executive minutes" going back decades – "Les très riches



heures de Raymond Buckton", I thought.

Buckton's successor is a very serious, large man – powerful rather than fat – with a Roman nose and dark brown eyes. But his most particular characteristic is his voice. It is immense and resonant – a voice which could command a walk-out across a crowded station concourse without amplification. Lew keeps it in careful check. The accent is Overseas – an early and more pleasant version of Estuary English – spoken by those with their roots in the capital, who moved out to Essex after the war.

He puts his tape recorder on the desk next to mine (perhaps "Lew Adams meets David Aaronovitch" will appear in the next edition of *Locomotive Journal*) and I ask him whether it's fun being a general secretary these days. He sighs and

tells me it's different. The union is half the size it was 25 years ago and now faces what he calls the "fragmentation" of the rail industry. There are hollers for everything, and the whole business of dealing with management has changed.

"Yes, but couldn't he have gone to arbitration, or some-

thing? At this point he becomes quite animated. The crux is that last year the employers signed an agreement, and it's his contention that they have simply reneged on it. He prods a document. "I have got an agreement which is there". He slaps it. "It says AGREE-MENT. It's there. How can anybody tell me to adjudicate or arbitrate on that? I mean to say, have it or quarter it. I won't have it. I want that." He slaps it again. "I don't want anyone to tell me anything about that. I want that delivered".

But if that's the case, would an arbitrator not find in Aslef's favour? He waves the paper. "I can read that. Anyone can read that. And it says AGREE-MENT – Working Arrangements Agreement. That is honest [honest is Mr Adams' favourite word]. So I don't want

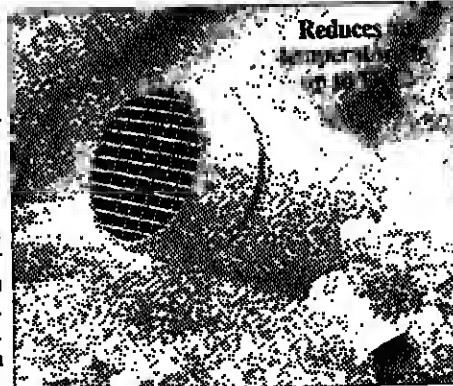
any sleaze merchant, as has happened with some MPs – who've got their snouts in the trough for 26 per cent – to tell me what is right or wrong' – Lew Adams

I've got an agreement. So I don't want any sleaze merchant, as has happened with some MPs – who've got their snouts in the trough for 26 per cent – to tell me what is right or wrong' – Lew Adams

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Mitford, Stalin, Hitler ... and cricket

From Lord Draynham

Sir, I have seen many tributes to my childhood friend, the late Jessica Mitford, but I have seen no mention of the one thing that struck immediately all who knew her at all well – her deep and passionate love of cricket. The one great sadness of her early life was that, however fertile her parents were, they had not produced enough children to form a whole cricket XI, so they often had to call upon servants and retainers from around the country estate to form a whole Redesdale XI.

This of course presented no difficulty to Jessica, who was tremendously egalitarian (before she became a Communist and therefore a bit more of a snob), and she had no objection to servants playing on the same side as aristocrats – indeed, as in the case of J M Barrie's *The Admirable Crichton*, she tended to think that servants made better cricket captains than her peers did.

Incidentally, she always used to accuse the English of hypocrisy over class, and when

challenged to back it up she would say: "Only the English would have no difficulty in using the same word to mean 'absolutely equal' AND 'inately superior'". When challenged to say what this word was, she would say "The word 'peer'". And she had a point, by Jove!

yours etc

From Lady Draynham

Sir, What my husband set out to say in the above letter, and quite forgot to mention, was that Jessica's love of cricket may have been unwittingly responsible for the rise of Nazism. In the early 1930s, at those unforgettable country cricket weekends which Jessica used to organise, she used to encourage her sisters to bring friends along to help bolster the team. One weekend Unity brought along one of her dreary German political friends, a Herr Goebbels, who kept talking about what the Nazis were going to do when they were in power. "Get the right uniform, the right songs, the right march and the right



Miles Kingdon

leader, and nothing is impossible!" he would shout. Well, he was not much good at cricket as it turned out – he was always shouting at someone else to stop the ball – but he was fascinated by the role of the umpire, and especially by the gesture of giving a batsman out. "Have you noticed," he said to me, "how wonderful it is when the fielders appeal, all raising their arms, and then the umpire slowly raises his aloft too to show solidarity?! I must remember this..."

Six months later Hitler was doing exactly the same. Need I say more? Every time I saw Herr Hitler on the newsreel doing the Nazi salute, I would rise to my feet and shout

"Out!", which caused some hilarity in our local cinema, I can tell you!

From Gennadi Ivanovich Orlov

Sir, In all the tributes to the late Jessica Mitford, I have seen no mention of her abiding love of cricket and her long-standing ambition to reshape it along Marxist-Leninist lines. She used to come to Moscow to have long talks with Stalin about this, and he showed every sign of agreeing with her, though we know now that he secretly did not consider a reform of cricket to be a high priority. Her theory was that cricket should be egalitarian to the extent of all the fielders being equidistant from the pitch. Stalin would chuckle and say: "Good idea, if they are all equally good and the batsmen always hit the ball the same distance!"

Many Communist sympathisers lost their faith when Stalin and Hitler signed the Nazi-Soviet pact, but Jessica never did. I happen to know that this was because she got

a telegram from Stalin himself saying: "DON'T THINK OF THE NAZI-SOVIET PACT AS A BETRAYAL – THINK OF IT AS A SPORTING DECLARATION! I NOW LET US SEE WHAT HERR HITLER CAN DO ON A CRUMBLING WICKET IN THE FOURTH INNINGS!" This, to Jessica, excused everything.

yours etc. From the Rt Hon William Gentry

I am surprised that none of the tributes to the late Jessica Mitford mentioned that cricket was the reason she moved to the USA. "Oh, William!" she would occasionally whimper to me down the phone, "I know that the revolution will come one day, but I also know that it will sweep cricket away with it! What shall I do?"

"Go somewhere where they don't play cricket," I would advise her, "and forget all about it."

And so she did, and went to California.

yours etc.

Keep the palaces, but stand for election

The public is in favour of a glamorous but more accountable Royal Family, writes Roger Jowell

Support for the British monarchy has been in long-term decline. But what would a considered verdict of the British people be on their monarchy, based on detailed information and balanced arguments about its pros and cons, its role, its history, its costs and benefits, rather than on the usual tabloid headlines and endless soundbites?

We tried to answer precisely that question in an unusual experiment – a “deliberative poll” – televised last night on Channel 4.

We began by selecting and interviewing a national random sample to elicit their “prior” opinions and knowledge about the monarchy and its alternatives. All those involved were then invited to spend a weekend in a series of discussions when they could question selected “experts”. Some 261 people attended.

After almost two days of discussion, they were asked to complete the questionnaire a

second time. Not surprisingly, things had changed. One half of the sample had said “the monarchy should remain as it is” at the initial interview, around a third believed it should be reformed and fewer than one in 10 favoured abolition.

After the weekend’s discussions, considering various alternative forms of governance, the notion of a British republic still had no more appeal, but the balance of opinion between the status quo and “reform” of the monarchy almost reversed itself. After deliberation, by a margin of 59 to 39 per cent, the public said that reform of the monarchy was possible and desirable.

Just what kind of reform did they have in mind? They certainly did not favour a less extravagant image. Far from desiring a shift from a “Rolls-Royce” monarchy to a “bicycling” monarchy, along Scandinavian lines, the considered view was that Britain got good value from its much more glamorous version of a royal family.

So what reforms did they want? With characteristic pragmatism and an apparent wish to reconcile Britain’s past with its present, this newly-informed microcosm of the electorate wanted instead to introduce greater accountability and democracy into its historical system of monarchical rule, blending the principle of hereditary with the practice of democracy and helping to ensure that the monarchy of the 21st century will remain well adapted to its more modern purpose.

There was a shift from 55 to 65 per cent in support of the proposition that any future king or queen who could not win popular support should relinquish office. There was a shift from 46 to 56 per cent in support of holding a referendum on the monarchy, and a similar increase in support of the notion that the British public should in future have a say in who succeeds to the throne (even if, in effect, only Windsors need apply).

The weekend’s deliberation had the effect of making its participants both more critical of and more impressed by their monarchy. For instance, the proportion believing a monarch should serve as head of the Church of England rose even more, steeply from 26 per cent to 56.

What is the significance of this experiment? Why take a random sample of the British public, make them demonstrably more informed than they were about an important national issue and then measure how their views have changed?

In short, the deliberative poll is, an attempt to see and hear a representative, thoughtful and informed debate among a sample of the electorate in an attempt to promote wider discussion and consideration of an issue. It is thus more than just an ambitious piece of social research.

monarchy made them “proud to be British”.

In contrast, the proportion who believed that the monarch should pay taxes “on the same terms as everyone else” rose from an already high 86 per cent to a near unanimous 94 per cent, and those who felt that the monarch should no longer serve as head of the Church of England rose even more, steeply from 26 per cent to 56.

What is the significance of this experiment? Why take a random sample of the British public, make them demonstrably more informed than they were about an important national issue and then measure how their views have changed?

In short, the deliberative poll is, an attempt to see and hear a representative, thoughtful and informed debate among a sample of the electorate in an attempt to promote wider discussion and consideration of an issue. It is thus more than just an ambitious piece of social research.

It is also an attempt to combine the forces and techniques of opinion-polling and of television – both having been blamed for making political debate more superficial – to encourage a deeper democratic dialogue.

The experiment was conducted by James Fishkin, professor of government, University of Texas and author of *The Voice of the People* (Yale University Press). Roger Jowell and Alison Park, respectively director and research director at Social & Community Planning Research (SCPR) London.

What do we think of the monarchy?		
	Pre-debate	Post-debate
The monarchy should:		
remain as it is	51	39
be reformed	34	50
be abolished	9	10
Monarchy gives Britain good value for money	48	68
Better if monarchy depends less on taxpayer	70	61
Monarch without support should leave office	55	65
Monarch should be reformed on continuation of monarchy	46	51
Should be referendum on choice of future monarch	41	18
Public should have say in choice of future monarch	27	41
Hereditary peers should keep right to vote	32	41
Monarchy important in uniting people in Britain	48	59
Monarchy makes me proud to be British	86	94
Monarch should pay taxes as everyone else	86	94
Monarch should not remain head of Church of England	26	56

You don't need to be mad, but it helps

Louise Jury looks at the eccentric joys of island-shopping

Nutter needed: another of Britain’s tiny islands is up for sale. Only eccentrics need apply. Only eccentrics will apply, for there is something about islands that appears to attract them.

As their Inner Hebridean haven goes on the market again, all the 60 residents of Eigg can do is pray for a benign and well-intentioned wealthy madman. For 15 months, they have been owned by a German artist, Marlin Eckhard Maruma. The 43-year-old, chain-smoking, beret-wearing professor (self-styled) sports New Age philosophies and creates paintings by burning the canvas. His name is said to have come to him as a sign, apparently written in puddles of water.

The islanders rarely saw him. Nevertheless, they were well disposed to him, until he sold all their cows (except one, Barney). The previous owner, Keith Schellenberg, was none too popular, either. A former British bold-leigh captain, he reciprocated the feelings of his tenants, describing them as “drunken, ungrateful, lawless, barmy revolutionaries”.

Unusual behaviour is a badge of honour among island-owners. Even Richard Branson, who owns Necker in the Caribbean, is not what you would call conventional. And Marlon Brando, who bought the Tahitian island of Tetiaroa nearly 50 years ago, was probably more at home when he went native in *Apocalypse Now*.

Then there are the Barclay brothers, millionaire twins with an almost pathological desire for secrecy, particularly over their life on the Channel island of Breckhow where they are building a mock-Gothic mansion. The reclusive duo are going to court to win independence from the neighbouring Crown-owned Isle of Sark.

They are not, however, as unique as they might seem. In 1985, plucky Tom McLean unsuccessfully lay stake to Rockall by landing on the tiny North Atlantic outcrop, hoisting a Union flag and pitching his tent for 40 days. Today there are nearly 3,000 privately owned islands in the world.

So what’s the fascination? For some, perhaps, ownership is a mark of their own emotional isolation. For them, Paul Simon famously sang: “I am a rock, I am an island.” Oliver James, a clinical psychologist, says, however, that the desire to get away from overcrowded mainland Britain is understandable.

But he adds: “You can perfectly well do that on the mainland. So you might want an island if you’re extremely paranoid or have reason to be anxious that people are after you.”

John Donne, however, recognised that there is no real escape, that even the wealthy, for all their money, must, eventually, make peace with the mainland. “No man,” said the 17th-century poet, “is an island. Every man is a piece of the continent.” Try telling that to the Barclay brothers.

Revenge of the losers

Atlanta, Oklahoma, the Unabomber – a breed of angry men is threatening America, says John Carlin

“He was a force. His thoughts carved the images of ruin and destruction. He walked frail, insignificant, shabby, miserable – and terrible in the simplicity of his idea, calling madness and despair to the regeneration of the world. Nobody looked at him. He passed on unsuspected and deadly, like a pest in the street full of men.”

Joseph Conrad anticipated in *The Secret Agent* the prototype of the late-20th century American terrorist. Conrad’s “Professor” is a bomber in late-19th century London who invests his impulse of destruction with a dark rationale. Stewing in self-loathing, he aims his rage at the world.

In Atlanta in the early hours of Saturday it was spleen-venting by splinter bomb. In Oklahoma City last year explosives packed in a lorry ripped through a government building, killing 169. In between, there was the arrest of the suspected Unabomber, a solitary woodsman who killed three and wounded 23 in an 18-year letter-bombing campaign. And more recently there have been the burnings of the black churches in the South.

In each case the motivation has been, apparently, different. The former marine accused in the Oklahoma bombing, Timothy McVeigh, was spawned in the paranoid sub-culture of the self-appointed citizen militias. The accused Unabomber is Theodore Kaczynski, a man ostensibly consumed with hatred for computer technology. Some of the church-burning cases have turned up a crop of beery red-necks who do not like black people.

But never has a logical, clearly defined objective been identified. When the IRA planned a bomb in Manchester during Euro 96, when the

Basque separatists of ETA set off an explosion in a Spanish airport; when Muslim radicals blew up a US base in Saudi Arabia no one was in any doubt as to the terrorists’ intentions. To drive the enemy out. To make the price of a continued British/Spanish/American “occupation” too high.

But the American terrorist is a different animal. Because ultimately he is driven by the need to placate the demons inside his head, he feels no need to make the connection between cause and effect. His stated goal is less than feasible, it is impossible. The Unabomber was no more going to contain the torrent of the World Wide Web than King Canute was going to hold back the tide. The church-burners are not realistically entertaining

the notion that they will drive 30 million black Americans back to Africa. As for the Atlanta pipe-bomber, his act was perhaps an even purer exercise in solipsism. We can only guess as to his motive. It could be, as a bus-driver told me yesterday over breakfast at Atlanta’s International House of Pancakes, that the culprit was one of the disaffected downtown vendors who bet his house on the chance of making a killing out of the Olympics but lost out badly because the teaming thousands failed to live up to acquisitive expectations.

More likely “the white American male” who, according to the FBI,



The militia groups are pledged to wage war on a tyrannical state

They are men seething with resentment at their failure to share in the American Dream

carried 17 credit cards but now, because of some unspecified trickery practised on him, he was reduced to driving a battered Volkswagen Beetle and did not have “enough credit to buy a dead fly”.

That was the moment of truth. Fletcher, in common with all the militia members (in common too with the Unabomber and the neo-Ku Klux Klan church-burners), was a man seething with his resentment at his failure to share in the American Dream. Through bad luck, bad faith or sheer incompetence they have huddled under the terrible strain of becoming

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We would soon repent a hasty union

A United States of Europe constructed by rushing into a single currency would never work

There is an admirable debate about Britain’s future in Europe under way. There was David Heathcoat-Amory’s pamphlet released after his resignation from the Government. At the same time there appeared Christopher Johnson’s book, *In with the Euro, Out with the Pound*, and 10 pages of questions and answers put with hostile intent by three Labour MPs headed by Dennis Davies.

Although Mr Heathcoat-Amory and Mr Johnson share much of the same analysis, they reach opposite conclusions about the central question: would national governments retain much freedom to take their own decisions on taxes and borrowing in a single European currency system.

In theory economic policy would be like a car with two drivers, one handling the steering wheel, the other the accelerator and brake. Tax levels and borrowing would continue to be fixed by individual governments, while interest rates and other monetary questions would be settled by a European central bank sitting in Frankfurt.

Unless modified, this cock-eyed arrangement would create a mismatch between the decisions taken by individual governments as a whole and the actions of the European central bank. As one driver was steering the car round a corner, the other could be

pressing down the accelerator and the vehicle could run out of control. A second ill consequence would be that a country running a large budget deficit would attract more than its fair share of savings from other members of the single currency area.

This is why the Maastricht Treaty does indeed limit national governments’ freedom to take whatever budget decisions they choose. Co-ordination is a duty: “Member States shall regard their economic policies as a matter of common concern and shall co-ordinate them within the Council.”

Then there are the notorious tests that countries wishing to join the single European currency have to pass, these cover total borrowing and the size of the budget deficit. Apart from Luxembourg, there is not a country, including the UK, in Europe which can be certain of meeting them without substantial cuts in government spending. Moreover, after entry, excessive borrowing can be punished by penalties and fines.

The test of an economic system is how well it promotes growth and stable prices and how it copes with shocks. Merging the pound into a single European currency would bring certain benefits. British interest rates would be lower. Traders and travellers would save the foreign exchange costs



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

incurred in swapping one European currency for another. Inflation is also likely to be under better control and competition within the single market enhanced.

Paradoxically, as a Europhile, I agree with Heathcoat-Amory

The most likely shock coming from outside is a world-wide recession. What normally happens is that automatic stabilisers come into play. During recession the Government takes part of the strain by increasing its borrowing to finance the loss of tax revenues and extra unemployment benefits. This tends to stabilise the economy and helps it recover from a

downturn. But under the Maastricht rules strictly applied, this automatic balancing would either not happen or operate less smoothly.

Some argue there could also be shocks that affect only one or two countries and not all the members of a single currency area. These could be a sharp change in the oil price, falls in demand for agricultural products, manufactured goods or financial services. The traditional remedy – devaluation – is no longer available. Instead local wages or prices would have to decline in real terms. But here, as David Heathcoat-Amory points out, the whole thrust of Community social and employment legislation is to strengthen the position of workers versus management and make such adjustments more difficult to achieve.

The big divide comes in the next stage of the argument. Christopher Johnson, who is pro-Europe and believes that the advantages of belonging to a single European currency are worth setting, writes that all these concerns can be met. The Maastricht budget limits would not be applied “sadomasochistically” and he doesn’t really believe there could be shocks that could affect one or two countries alone. Mr Heathcoat-Amory, on the other hand, says there is no “European economy” and that the imperfections

of the Maastricht controls on individual budgets would drive the European Union itself towards having a much bigger budget of its own, so that finally the United Kingdom’s relationship with Brussels would be like that of Texas with Washington.

Paradoxically, as a Europhile I find myself in agreement with the Eurosceptic Heathcoat-Amory. The dynamics of economic policy-making mean that, sooner or later, one of the two drivers in the car will put the other into the back seat. Monetary questions and budget policy will come to be settled at the European level rather than by national governments.

We would thus have arrived at a United States of Europe by completely the wrong method. Rather than willing it as an objective from the beginning, as I think we should, and taking appropriate steps over a period of many years, under monetary union we should find ourselves pushed there too quickly by a series of economic or monetary crises and we should have constructed a closer European union under duress and in a bad temper. Nobody can want that. For the time being, therefore, it is essential that the United Kingdom remains in the discussion, that no pre-election pledges are given, and that we stand ready to exercise our opt-out.

obituaries / gazette

Sir David
Nicolson

Sir David Nicolson was not only one of the most outstanding businessmen of his generation but also a highly influential figure in the European Movement. Yet he preferred, as one former colleague put it, "to do good by stealth".

Unlike many businessmen with far fewer achievements to their credit, he was unstuffy, invariably courteous, spoke only when he had something to say, and never sought to claim the credit for his achievements. To the day of his death he retained a faint sense of surprise and pleasure at the honours heaped on him. Yet, as the same colleague said, "things seemed to happen when he was around".

Nicolson's father was a Canadian consulting engineer who had settled in Britain and, after Haileybury, he was educated as an engineer at Imperial College, London. In the last years of the Second World War he served with distinction as a Lieutenant in the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors in the Atlantic and in Normandy, where he was mentioned in despatches.

More importantly he met his first wife, Joan Griffiths, on the beaches where she was serving as a nurse. They married the following year and until her death in 1991 he remained the most romantically devoted of husbands - friends remember his face lighting up as she came into the room. The practical and romantic sides of his character were combined in his great love sailing, where he enjoyed both the nuts and bolts aspects and the romance of the sea.

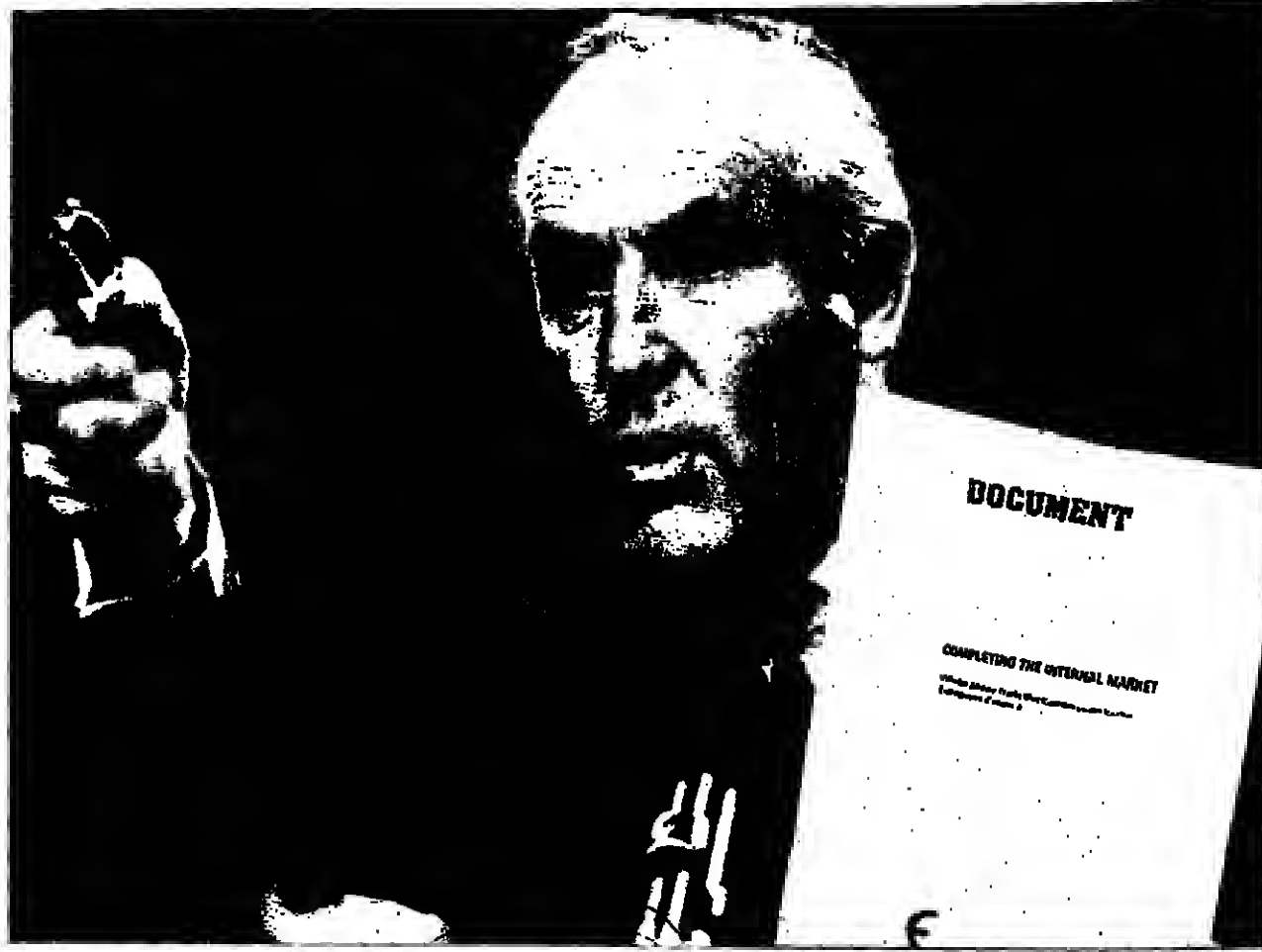
In the 20 years after the war Nicolson worked primarily as a manager and then as chairman of Production Engineering, then probably the leading British industrial consultancy group, a position in which he built up his formidable network of business contacts.

But his best known role was as chairman of BTR between 1969 and 1984, years in which the company grew, quietly and exceedingly profitably, into one of the country's leading holding companies, one unlike its fellows in that it grew not only by acquisition but also by highly disciplined internal growth.

Nicolson was very much a non-executive chairman, the company's expansion being largely directed by Sir Owen Green and his colleagues, yet he played to perfection the role of a consultant, available to provide sound advice when required. He was also highly influential in setting the company style, which, in keeping with his own personality, was unpretentious and so low key as to be practically invisible to the press and the public.

As BTR grew Nicolson naturally became much in demand as a company director. In 1972 he became the first chairman of British Airways, a potentially explosive mixture of two greatly contrasted companies, British Overseas Airways and British European Airways, and before he left the chair in 1975 - with a knighthood - had overseen a most successful merger.

In the following 20 years he served as a director of a number of major companies, usually with distinction - returning to his roots as non-executive chair-



A capacity to bring together dissimilar people to achieve a definite aim: Nicolson at a CBI conference, 1987

Photograph: PA

man of the managerial consortium which bought the VSEL (Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering) shipyards at Barrow-in-Furness from state ownership.

Nicolson's greatest contribution to public, as opposed to business, life came from his connection with the European Movement, which he clearly - and untypically - saw as posing no conflict with his involvement with North America. He represented the London Central constituency in the European Parliament between 1979 and 1984 and in 1985 became chairman of the then nearly-defunct European Movement.

He was by no means a federalist, but proved himself a genuine internationalist. The romantic side of his character had been inspired by the idea of peoples working together as he had done with the Continental members of the European Parliament. At the European Movement his style resembled that at BTR: he delegated power and trusted those who worked with him to rebuild the Movement.

He carried his European convictions with him during his stint as pro-Chancellor of Surrey University between 1987 and 1993. He got on well with the students, initiated and attended debates on the subject.

He was also "influential" - a word much used about him - in helping to set up what is now a most successful European Management School at the University.

He had never neglected his father's native country, serving as a member of the British National Export Committee for Canada, and as a director of the Canadian group Northern Telecom for some years. But the most tangible evidence of his influence is the Memorial in the Mall to the Canadians who had served and died in two world wars.

This, dedicated by the Queen on 3 June 1994, was the result of Nicolson's capacity to bring

together a group of often dissimilar people to achieve a definite aim, and remains a monument to him, almost as much as to the heroes it commemorated.

Nicholas Faith

David Lancaster Nicolson, businessman and politician: born London 20 September 1922; deputy chairman, BTR 1965-69, chairman 1969-84, director 1984-96; Kt 1975; MEP (Conservative) for London Central 1979-84; Pro-Chancellor, Surrey University, 1987-93; married 1945 Joan Griffiths (died 1991); one son, two daughters; 1992 Beryl Thorley; died 19 July 1996.

Norman Aldridge

Norman Aldridge was regarded by his peers as one of the most thoughtful and influential toxicologists of our time.

He was fascinated by the interaction of chemicals with living organisms and driven by "the insatiable urge to make sense of things" which Sir Peter Medawar defined as the true basis of research. He loved research but also to apply the results to real life, and he encouraged his students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting scientists from around the world to do the same.

Toxicology is a multidisciplinary science which draws on the skills of basic science in biology, chemistry, medicine and, more recently, molecular biology. Aldridge's interest and investigations spanned a wide range of areas but is illustrated by his work on a poisoning incident with malathion, a widely and safely used pesticide of the 1960s and 1970s.

When cheaper formulations of malathion began to appear in the late 1970s, about 2,500 malaria-control sprayers in Pakistan became ill and five died. As Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) collaborating laboratory at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Toxicology Unit at Carshalton, Surrey, Aldridge developed a series of experiments that demonstrated that the enhanced toxicity of malathion was due to an impurity, isomathion, generated by storage of some of the samples in hot, humid, uncontrolled conditions.

Typically Aldridge was not content to solve only the immediate problem. He believed that understanding how and why chemicals exert toxic effects was fundamental to risk management. He demonstrated that isomathion inhibited enzymes that normally degraded the small amounts of malathion ingested through accident or during work. He then went on to show that there were other impurities that also potentiated the toxicity but that they also had an unusual effect on the lung. All this work led to changes in the manufacturing and storage procedures for malathion to prevent this occurring again.

It is a tribute to Aldridge's ability and unassuming personality that authorities from all over the world would turn to him for advice, even after his retirement. His involvement in unravelling the mechanism of toxicity caused by the chemical disasters of Bhopal, in India, and the toxic cooking oil in Spain was to develop an understanding to reduce the likelihood of a similar recurrence of such events.

Aldridge spent the Second World War years as a corporal laboratory technician at the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down. Stimulated by Sir Charles Lovatt-Evans, John Barnes and others, he was drawn into toxicology and graduated (London, external) in Chemistry and Physiology via long and hard part-time study. Following the Second World War, the prospect of massive expansion of chemical and pharmaceutical industries led the MRC in 1946 to found a Toxicology Unit to "do something" about the possible hazards to which operators and users might be exposed.

Thus it was natural that, when John Barnes was appointed medical director of the Toxicology Unit, he should invite Aldridge to be the first scientific member of staff. He obtained his PhD in Biochemistry (London, external) for fundamental work on the mech-

anism of interaction of organophosphorus compounds with enzymes. This understanding of mechanism facilitated the development of useful pesticides from a class of compounds originally designed for chemical warfare.

By the time of his retirement in 1985, Aldridge had been head of the Biochemical Mechanisms Section of the Toxicology Unit for 20 years and Deputy Director for 10. He was Founder, Chairman of the British Toxicology Society, Secretary-General of the International Union of Toxicology and was honoured with awards and academic appointments in Europe, Asia and America. He was also Editor-in-Chief of the *Biochemical Journal* during the 1960s. He was appointed OBE in 1977 for services to toxicology.

Throughout his "retirement" he continued as Visiting Professor of Biochemical Toxicology at Surrey University, where he had contributed extensively to the design and operation of MSc courses strong in the mechanistic approach to toxicology. He also continued editorial work for international journals and to advise the MRC and WHO on both research and health problems.

Norman Aldridge will be remembered as an amiable man who loved to get to the heart of an issue. The pursuit of mech-



Aldridge: the world of toxicology

anisms of toxicity is a rigorous scientific activity but also great fun, and led him to delve into unexplored areas of biochemistry and physiology. He could often be found with a group of all ages and nationalities where his probing questions stimulated discussion and further questions, whether they be of current political issues or scientific conundrums. He would seize data which did not fit hypotheses as trophies of research, ask questions and design experiments to distinguish between alternative explanations. He never built an empire of research workers but influenced the world of toxicology through his students and visiting scientists and his (sometimes terrifying) trenchant challenges to presuppositions. "Why?" from Aldridge rocked many a person on to their back foot.

During his career he was a visiting scientist at the Universities of California and Wisconsin in the United States, and Trondheim, Norway. His book *Mechanisms and Concepts in Toxicology*, which was published shortly before his death, embodies his thoughtful, challenging multidisciplinary approach to his work.

Martin Johnson

Wilfred Norman Aldridge, toxicologist: born Nuneaton, Warwickshire 22 November 1919; Head, Biochemical Mechanisms Section, Medical Research Council 1966-85; OBE 1977; married 1946 Kathleen Chivers (one son, two daughters); died Winchester 30 June 1996.

Herb Edelman

As the divorced husband trying to win back Bea Arthur (Dorothy) in the popular American comedy series *The Golden Girls*, bald actor Herb Edelman was seen in more than 60 countries, crowning a career in which he was also watched by audiences world-wide as a regular in the hit programmes *9 to 5* and *St Elsewhere*, and films such as *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple* and *The Front Page*.

Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1933, Edelman attended Brooklyn College and Cornell University, served in the US Army, then worked as a cab driver while waiting for a time to come along as an actor.

He played Walt Driscoll in a tour of *The Threepenny Opera* (1961), before making his Broadway debut in *Lorenzo* (1963) and gaining his biggest break there in the role of the telephone repairman in Neil Simon's comedy *Barefoot in the Park* (Biltmore Theatre, 1963). He reprised the part of Harry Pepper in the director Gene Saks's 1967 film version, featuring Robert Redford and Jane Fonda.

By then, Edelman had already starred as Uncle Harry in the American television series *Occasional Wife* (1966-67), and he followed it with another series, *The Good Guys* (1968-70), in which he played Bert Gramus, who with a childhood friend ran a diner called Bert's Place.

Edelman guest-starred in

more than 50 television programmes including *Cagney & Lacey* (1985), *Hardcastle and McCormick* (1985), *Highway to Heaven* (1985), *Murder, She Wrote* (1986/1987), *The Love Boat* (1986) and *Beauty and the Beast* (1988), but he was best known to American viewers for his starring roles in *Big John*, *Little John* (1976), as Big John Martin, *Ladies' Man* (1980-81, as Reggie) and *Strike Force* (1981-82, as Deputy Commissioner Herbert Klein).

International audiences saw him as Harry Nussbaum in 9 to 5 (1982-83), a spin-off from the Dolly Parton feature film of the same name, and Richard Ciaradino in *St Elsewhere* (1982-88), the hospital drama set in Boston. It was one of the first of a new brand of American series screened by the newly opened Channel 4 in Britain and made, like the police series *Hill Street Blues*, by Mary Tyler Moore's production company, MTM Television.

In 1985, Edelman began his occasional appearances as Stanley Zbornak in *The Golden Girls* (1985-92), which was ground-breaking in featuring four female housemates in their "golden years". His character had been divorced by Dorothy (Bea Arthur) when he left her for an air hostess after 38 years of marriage, but Stanley was forever trying to win her back. However, he finally had to accept that his ex-wife no longer wanted him when she married

Blanche's uncle, Lucas (played by *Airplane!* and *Naked* film star Leslie Nielsen), in the final series.

The programme, set in Miami, devised by Soap creator Susan Harris and winner of 10 Emmy awards and three Golden Globes in America, was noted for its wit and willingness to tackle taboo subjects, such as compulsive gambling, incontinence and abortion. It finished in 1992 after Bea Arthur's decision to leave, although the other female stars went on to appear in a less successful sequel, *The Golden Palace*.

Edelman's final television appearance was playing a guest role in *Burke's Law* (1995). Throughout his career, Herb Edelman appeared in films, including *In Like Film* (1967), *The Odd Couple* (1967), *The War Between Men and Women* (1972), with Jack Lemmon, *The Way We Were* (1973), *The Front Page* (1974), *California Suite* (1978), adapted from Neil Simon's Broadway hit and *Smorgasbord* (re-titled *Cracking Up*, 1983, playing Jerry Lewis's psychiatrist). A keen painter and sculptor, he was also a gifted linguist, fluent in Japanese, French, Spanish, Italian, Yiddish, Hebrew, German and Russian.

Anthony Hayward

Herb Edelman, actor: born Brooklyn, New York 5 November 1933; married 1964 Louise Cohen (deceased); two daughters; died Woodland Hills, California 21 July 1996.



Edelman with Jack Lemmon in *The War Between Men and Women*, 1972

Photograph: Ronald Grant

Births,
Marriages
& Deaths

MARRIAGES

FOGLIZZO/SAUNDY: The marriage took place at the Reform Church, Lamastre, France, on 21 July 1996, between Thierry Foglizzo, of Marseille, and Diana Saundry, of Llangrannog, formerly of Aardor.

DEATHS

BLACKABY: Peter Norman, died suddenly whilst on holiday in Portugal, on 23 July 1996. For funeral details and messages: Stephen 01432-353860.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the International Sail Training Association, visits the Cuny Sark Tall Ships Race at Turku, Finland, and attends the Captain's Dinner at Turku Castle. The Prince of Wales hosts a reception to mark the 40th anniversary of the Farmers' Union of Wales at Penryn Castle, near Wexham, Powys; and as Vice President, the National Trust, attends a premiere of the film *August in the Smeeths* at the National Theatre, London.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. The Queen's Colour Squadron mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

Forthcoming
marriages

Mr O. R. Tact and Miss C. L. Spittlehouse. The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs Reginald Tact, of Worcester Park, Surrey, and Louise, only daughter of the late Mrs Jane Spittlehouse and of Mr James Spittlehouse, of Sheffield.

Marriages

Mr A. V. R. Wood and Ms K. B. Holm. The marriage took place on Saturday 22 June, in Svarstskog Kirke, Oppgaard, Norway, between Mr Arthur Wood, son of the late Mr Arthur Wood and of Mrs Kathryn V. Wood, and Ms Karl Holm, daughter of Mr Olav Holm and Dr Mildred Holm.

Birthdays

Mr Nigel Aspinall, croquet player, 30; Mr Roger Bone, Ambassador to Sweden, 52; Professor Gustav Born, pharmacologist, 73; Professor Patricia Clarke, biochemist, 77; Sir Michael Davies, former High Court judge, 75; Miss Ray Dick, author, 81; Mr Max Faulkner, golfer, 80; Sir Leslie Fielding, former Vice-Chancellor, Sussex University, 64; Miss Sally Gurnell, athlete, 30; Mr Joe Johnson, snooker player, 44; Miss Diane Keen, actress, 56; Lord Kilpatrick of Kinross, pharmacologist, 70; Mr Michael Pickard, chairman, London Docklands Development Corporation, 64; Viscount Ridley, Lord-Lieutenant for Northumberland and Chancellor, Newcastle University, 71; Sir John Saunders, banker, 79; Lord Searman, former Lord of Appeal, 85; Mr Anthony

Stevens, veterinary surgeon, 70; Miss Wendy Taylor, sculptor, 51; Mr Mike Theodorakis, composer, 71; Lord Weststock, managing director, GEC, 72.

Anniversaries

Births: George Bradshaw, publisher and originator of Bradshaw's railway guides, 1801; Donald Robert Perry Marquis, author, 1878; Benito Amilcare Andrea Mussolini, Italian leader, 1883; Newton Booth Carver, author, 1869; William Cameron Menzies, film director and designer, 1896; Hjalmar Hammarhjeld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1905; Lord Grimond (Joseph Grimond), politician, 1913. Deaths: Philip I. King of France, 1108; William Wilberforce, campaigner for the abolition of slavery, 1833; Vincent van Gogh, committed suicide 1890; King Humbert (Umberto) I of Italy, assassinated, by the anarchist Gaetano Bresci, 1900; Edward Gordon Craig, actor, designer and director, 1906; Erich Kästner, author, 1974; Luis Bunuel, film director, 1983; James David Graham Niven, actor, 1983. On this day: the Spanish Armada was defeated, 1588; the BBC Light Programme was first broadcast, 1945; the XXVth Olympic Games opened at Wembley, 1948; the Prince of Wales was married to Lady Diana Spencer, 1981. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Beatrice and Simplicius. St Felix II, antipope. St Faustinus and Beatrice. St Lupus of Troyes. St Marha. St Olav, King of Norway and St William of Saint-Brevé.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Charles Newton, "Watercolours and Prints of Turkey", 2.30pm.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Crime

DPP v K and B (Q.B. 11) (Russell LJ and Scott Baker J); 25 June 1996. Where the Crown rebutted the presumption of *doli incapax* ("incapable of crime") in respect of two girls aged 14 and 11, those girls could be convicted of aiding, abetting, counselling and procuring a rape and indecent assault, even though the Crown had not rebutted the presumption of *doli incapax* in respect of the principal offender. The fact that the principal offender was *doli incapax* could not affect the *actus reus* of the offence and the girls had the necessary *mens rea*.

John McGinnis (CPS) for the Crown; **Richard Travers** (Peter Pennington & Co) for Catherine Rye (Matters) for B.

R v Giammetti (CA) (Cr. Div.) (Kennedy LJ, Laws, Maurice Kay JJ) 28 June 1996. Where the prosecution alleged more than one factual basis for the crime charged and it was not possible to say "if it was not the one then it must have been the other", the principle in *R v Brown* (1984) 79 Cr App R 115 applied. The trial judge was right not to direct the jury that before they could convict they must all be satisfied either that the appellant killed his wife or that he got someone else to do

so. They were entitled to convict if they were all satisfied that, if he was not the killer, he at least encouraged the killing. **Charles Barton QC**, **Ian Bullock** (Douglas & Co, Bristol) for the appellant; **Paul Chubb QC**, **Martin Meek** (CPS) for the Crown.

Evidence

R v Coitrell (CA) (Cr. Div.) (Ottens LJ, Hidden J, Recorder of Birmingham) 28 June 1996.

Where a written statement made by a defendant to his then solicitors had been voluntarily handed over to the prosecution without any impropriety or sharp practice on the part of the Crown, the question of legal privilege did not arise, and the trial judge could, in exercising his discretion under s 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, permit the use of that document at the defendant's trial in his cross-examination.

J.R. Haldenstone (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; **J. Goadley** (CPS) for the Crown.

Sentencing

R v Johnson (Durham) (CA) (Cr. Div.) (Lord Bingham CJ, Ognall J) 17 June 1996.

Given the profusion of legislation now affecting sentencing judges, both prosecuting and defending counsel should monitor sentences expressed by the

CASE SUMMARIES

29 July 1996

court at first instance so as to give either the Registrar of Criminal Appeals or the full court from having to interfere on a wholly academic but none the less important basis when dealing with unlawful sentences.

Amjad Nawaz (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant.

Solicitor

R v Legal Aid Board, ex p Amno Gafthick (Q.B. 11) 20 June 1996.

A solicitor had no claim for damages for breach of statutory duty by the regional committee of the Legal Aid Board resulting from his unlawful suspension from the Duty Solicitor Scheme, since the beneficiaries of that statutory scheme were those who needed legal advice and assistance not those who provided it. Nor was there any contract or quasi contract between such a solicitor and the Legal Aid Board, breach of which could lead to a claim for damages, since in being suspended all that had occurred was the loss of the opportunity of earning under the scheme.

Cherie Powell QC, **Qureshi Usman Gafthick** for the applicant; **Miss Laing** (Legal Aid Board) for the respondent.

Stamp duty

LM Teanetes t p l e v IRC; ChD

Carnworth J 21 June 1996.

A taxpayer was liable for ad valorem duty under the Stamp Act 1891, Sch 1, for leases which he had granted, even though the premiums for the leases were to be calculated by reference to the price of Treasury Loan stock at the close of business 25 days after execution of the leases. Although duty could not be levied on a lease where the consideration was unascertained at the time the lease was executed, the taxpayer was liable because the duty could be ascertained by calculating the premiums on the basis of the price of stock on the closest working day to the execution of the lease.

Roger Thomas (Taylor Vintners, Cambridge) for the taxpayer; **Michael Furness** (Inland Revenue) for the Crown.

Tax

Nichols v Gibson (RMT); CA (Leggatt, Morritt, Otton LJ) 14 June 1996.

A taxpayer's severance payment was chargeable to income tax, by virtue of s 187(1) of the Income & Corp Tax Act 1970 (now s 148(1) of the 1988 Act), even though the taxpayer had been neither resident nor ordinarily resident in the UK and was not employed by the employer for the duration of the tax year in which the payment was received. Section

187(1) was independent of s 181(1) of the 1970 Act [s 19(1), (2) of the 1988 Act] and provided for a charge to tax under Sch E not confined to the rules of the Cases under s 181(1). Since s 187(1) required a payment where appropriate to be treated as an emolument of a "past holder" of an office or employment, the severance payment was subject to income tax.

Stephen Brandon QC, **Robert Grieson** (Pulvers, Watford) for the taxpayer; **Timothy Brennan** (Inland Revenue Solicitor).

VAT

Trustees of Victoria & Albert Museum v Customs & Excise Comrs (Q.B. 11) 14 June 1996.

The museum, which made supplies both taxable and non-taxable for VAT purposes, adopted the income-based method of apportionment set out in Appendix J to Customs Notice 700, but was advised that the use-based method would be more advantageous. The income-based method was lawful and had been accepted as fair and reasonable by Customs. There was no error in a return within reg 35 of the VAT Regulations 1995 (SI 2518) and the museum could not retrospectively change to a different method because it was more favourable.

Roger Thomas (Lawrence Graham) for the museum; **Stephen Richards** (Customs & Excise).

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EU labour law: Unions on Continent claim that petrol giant 'fails to meet democratic standards'

BP faces legal challenge over works council

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Sir David Simon, the Europhile chairman of BP, faces a legal challenge over his company's policy towards a key element of European employment legislation.

The European Works Council established by BP is threatened with court action over allegations that it fails to measure up to the democratic standards required under the directive.

Unions on the Continent contend that the council, set up 18 months ago, includes management appointees as worker representatives and therefore infringes the law. The litigation is to be launched after 22 September when employees' leaders are allowed to challenge any works council which they believe breaches European statute.

The case could take on the importance of a *cause célèbre* because of the involvement of one of Britain's most prominent blue-chip companies.

All employers with more than 1,000 workers within the EU

and more than 100 workers in two EU countries are compelled to set up a pan-European structure for consulting and informing their employees.

The Maastricht opt-out means companies do not have to count British workers in deciding whether they qualify and UK staff have no right to be represented on the councils. The overwhelming majority of companies, British and foreign, are, however, ignoring the opt-out.

Sir David, who has been identified with a more pro-European stance than many of his business colleagues, is accused of being "selective" in his approach to the EU. He was a member of the European Commission's competitiveness advisory group, made up of business people and trade unionists, which said that the completion of the internal market was an absolute priority to enhance competitiveness. Sir David has declared his support in principle for monetary union.

Franco Bisegna, of the European Mine, Chemical and

Energy Workers' Federation, alleged however that BP had established a European Works Council without adopting the proper procedures.

Unions on the Continent - which are recognised by BP for collective bargaining and are therefore seen as legitimate organisations for representing employees - should have been involved in setting up the framework, Mr Bisegna argued.

"Delegates were confronted with an agreement and they were simply expected to sign. It's a very poor agreement which doesn't meet the minimum requirements and we intend to challenge it," Mr Bisegna said.

A spokesman for BP said the structure had been based on existing national works councils and employee forums. National representatives were properly consulted over the council.

"We believe the system we've got in place meets the letter of the law and its spirit," he said. There was no need to involve unions directly in the process. "Some of the representatives



Union challenge: Sir David Simon has been identified with a pro-European stance

may be union members, others won't."

Many of the British companies covered by the directive are still negotiating with employees and unions to establish a "vol-

untary" works council before 22 September.

After that date any company which has failed to establish a works council - or has set up a structure which fails to meet the

requirements - will be forced to co-operate with a special negotiating body. The works council prescribed in detail by European legislation.

£1.4bn East Midlands bid on the cards

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

East Midlands Electricity is expected to confirm this week that it has received an approach from another firm which could lead to a takeover bid that could value the company at £1.4bn.

If the Nottingham-based group is swallowed up it would leave just four regional electricity companies (RECs) still in-

dependent, out of the original 12 at privatisation.

The most likely candidate to launch a bid for the company is thought to be the US utility firm, Houston Industries, which was previously linked to speculation about a possible approach for London Electricity.

Nigel Hawkins, a utilities analyst with Yamaichi International, said: "The window of opportunity to take over a REC

is narrowing, given the imminence of a general election and the likelihood of a Labour government with a more hostile attitude towards utility takeovers."

Rumours of a possible bid for East Midlands last week to 58p, a gain of 30p. Yesterday a spokeswoman for East Midlands said: "We can only say what we always say, that we don't comment on speculation."

As far as we're concerned it's business as usual."

With 2.2 million customers, East Midlands is one of the largest electricity companies by customer numbers. It is also widely considered to be one of the best-managed under chairman Nigel Rudd and chief executive Norman Askew.

Over the past two years they have steered the company away from activities such as retailing and security, concen-

trating on improving the efficiency of the core electricity operation. The total workforce has fallen to 5,000, from 8,700 in 1993. The management has also been sceptical of the potential savings from the "multi-utility" groups.

However, because of its efficiency, East Midlands would not come cheap. A buyer would have to offer at least 650p, a 71p premium over Friday's closing share price. Tough negotiating

by the existing management could push the final price to 700p, valuing the company at £1.4bn.

It is thought that if the two sides cannot agree a price this week, it could lead to a hostile bid. One analyst said: "If anyone is going to drive a hard bargain it's Nigel Rudd. He has more experience of takeovers than the rest of the management of the entire electricity industry put together."

IN BRIEF

• The BT board will continue intense discussions this week into proposals by Ofcom, the industry regulator, to take on the power to ban anti-competitive behaviour. However, no formal board meeting has been scheduled following last Tuesday's key meeting, where decisions were taken by directors. BT still hopes to persuade the Government to amend the Telecommunications Act to include a right of appeal over Ofcom's decisions. However, if help from the Department of Trade and Industry is not forthcoming, then the company will formally respond "either way" by Friday. Ofcom emphasised last week that failure to reply by Friday's deadline would lead to an immediate MMC referral.

• UK executives have seen basic salaries increase by nearly twice the rate of inflation in the past year, according to figures published today. The last six months have also seen directors' bonuses as a percentage of basic pay rising by more than 15 per cent. The survey by pay and benefit consultants Sedgwick Noble Lowndes shows that median base salary rises were 5.3 per cent in the 12 months to 30 June 1996, up from 5 per cent six months ago. The median base salary was £70,900.

• British Airways, trying to win support for its planned alliance with American Airlines, said air fares to the US were cheaper from Britain than from any other European country. Consumers in some parts of Europe pay more than twice as much per mile to fly across the Atlantic as their British counterparts, according to a BA study for the Office of Fair Trading.

• The cost to business of complying with tax legislation has soared 33 per cent over the past five years, twice the rate of inflation in that time, according to figures published today. UK-quoted companies spend more than £250m a year on tax compliance - and most of them feel that this work diverts them from core business activities, says a KPMG tax simplification survey.

• Directors of Christian Salvesen, the transport group, are to meet on Wednesday to consider last week's £1.1bn takeover approach from Hays, the business services company, against a backdrop of reports over the weekend that they may turn down the proposal.

• Germany's largest commercial bank, Deutsche Bank, is considering "Europeanising" its stakeholdings in companies, with a greater proportion of holdings outside Germany, while reducing them at home, a spokesman told the magazine *Der Spiegel*.

• THL, the leisure park developer, and Scottish & Newcastle, are to create a £45m leisure complex, including a multiplex cinema, on part of the Fountainbridge brewery site in the centre of Edinburgh. It is claimed to be the first leisure park in the heart of a Scottish city.

Jobs threat in Bass's £200m Carlsberg deal

CHRIS GODSMARK

A long-awaited £200m deal by Bass, the brewer, to buy Allied Domecq's half-share in Carlsberg-Tetley, the Anglo-Danish brewing business, will be announced this week.

Allied Domecq, the drinks, foods and retailing group, is expected to make a statement today confirming for the first time that negotiations are taking place, though sources suggest the small print has yet to be finalised.

Hundreds of job losses are expected from the combined workforce of 8,000 employees, based at 14 breweries, with roughly 4,000 each currently working for Bass's brewing business and Carlsberg-Tetley.

One of the Carlsberg-Tetley breweries, in Warrington, had already been earmarked for closure though more are now expected to be shut by Bass in the rationalisation.

The deal will return Bass to the top of the UK brewing industry, a position it lost last year when Scottish and Newcastle bought Courage.

In the process it will raise Bass's share of the market from 23 to around 40 per cent, combining well-known brands such as Carlsberg Lager, Tetley Bitter and Castlemeane XXXX

from Allied, with Carling Black Label, Tennent's and Grolsch from Bass.

It will also involve the Danish brewer, Carlsberg, swapping its half-share in Carlsberg-Tetley for a 20 per cent stake in Bass's brewing operations. Allied Domecq will write off £300m from its balance sheet to cover the cost of leaving the brewing business altogether.

Allied will be left with its high-profile spirits brands, including Beefeater Gin and Courvoisier Cognac, retail outlets such as Victoria Wine and Dunkin' Donuts and J&M pubs.

The exit from brewing would enable the company to source its beer from a bigger variety of brewers, at more competitive prices, when existing agreements to buy from Carlsberg-Tetley expire next year. The £200m price of the 50 per cent stake for Allied was determined by the length of this supply agreement.

The decision by Allied Domecq to get out of the brewing business is widely seen as the work of the new Chairman, Sir Christopher Hogg, who took up the non-executive post in April. He is also chairman of Courtaulds, the chemicals firm, and the information group Reuters Holdings.

Law Panel firms revolt over EU takeover plans

ROGER TRAPP

The Financial Law Panel set up about three years ago by the Bank of England and the Corporation of London in response to the swaps problems at London's Hammonds and Fulham council, is facing a revolt by some members over its conciliatory attitude to the proposed European Union directive on takeovers.

One law firm is said to be so angry over what it regards as the Panel's over-sympathetic response to the plans for harmonisation of takeovers across Europe that it is planning to withdraw its funding.

The threat comes days after a House of Lords Select Committee concluded that the European Commission proposals for harmonisation were ill-conceived and should be opposed by Britain. The Lords have taken the same hostile view of the proposals as the Takeover Panel, the non-statutory body that referees City bids.

The Department of Trade and Industry has already made clear that it agrees with the Takeover Panel that the European plans would lead to a greater risk of tactical litigation by companies involved in bids. The Commission proposals for harmonising takeover rules

seek to extend the UK system across Europe. But by bringing the voluntary regime of the Takeover Panel into a statutory framework, they appear to create openings for legal review - and therefore threaten the speed and flexibility of the current system.

The Financial Law Panel submitted a paper to the House of Lords committee in which it said it did not think the directive would have much practical effect. It said it had had conversations with various people about its views, but denied it had received withdrawal threats.

City solicitors believe it involved itself in this matter because its chairman, Lord Donaldson, was interested as a result of being the judge in the Datafin case, which set down that the courts would not generally interfere in bids while they are being conducted.

The Financial Law Panel is technically a subsidiary of the Bank of England. It is funded by about 150 subscribers, drawn from banks, insurance companies, law firms and accountancy practices, which each pay an annual subscription of £4,000 in return for receiving all the body's publications and help with resolving problems that occur in the various markets. It does not deal with individual disputes.

Small firms are left behind by recovery

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Small firms are being left out of the economic recovery, according to evidence yesterday from the CBI and NatWest, which have found that a large number of businesses in manufacturing, retailing and other sectors are still struggling.

Despite recent goods news for other parts of the economy, small and medium manufacturers are much less optimistic than their larger competitors, the CBI said.

The survey by the CBI and accountants Pannell Kerr Forster found that business optimism among small and medium firms had fallen for the fourth consecutive quarter even though confidence among UK manufacturers as a whole was found recently to have increased for the first time since April 1995.

Tony Bonner, chairman of the CBI's smaller and medium firms council, said the employers' survey painted a gloomy picture of firms lagging behind on output and new orders. Their performance is the worst since January 1993.

Very small businesses across many sectors have seen no improvement at all, according to Ian Peters, head of small business services at NatWest.

In an interview with the *Independent* he singled out the very smallest retailers, one of the biggest groups of businesses by number, as among those with the worst problems. He

said: "The small retailer is undoubtedly having a tough time at the moment."

Mr Peters said small firms generally were lagging the rest because the recovery had been led by manufacturing exports, not consumer buying, and spending had been restrained.

The rise in out-of-town shopping was also working against small high street firms, and recent surveys showed that the number of retailers citing supermarket competition as a serious constraint on sales has risen from tenth to fifth biggest concern. Small retailers have also been hit unfairly hard by the uniform business rate.

Separately, civil engineering firms are becoming increasingly concerned about the "worsening condition" of the market for their services because of cuts in public spending.

A survey by the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors predicted further cuts in workload over the next year.

But confidence among marketing professionals is the highest for a year, providing evidence that the economy will recover without fuelling inflation, according to the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

Marketing managers are planning for a 6.8 per cent sales growth this year, but they expect the inflationary element to be 0.9 per cent. Professor Douglas McWilliams, the institute's economic adviser, said: "The economy is bouncing back after a sluggish period in the early part of the year."

Revised Interest Rates Amended Investment and Savings Rates Effective from 29th July 1996.

Minimum Investment	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Net†
Bonus Builder (Annually)††			
£100,000+	5.75%	-	4.50%
£50,000	5.35%	-	4.28%
£20,000	5.10%	-	4.08%
£10,000	4.60%	-	3.68%
£5,000	4.15%	-	3.32%
Bonus Builder (Monthly)††			
£100,000+	5.60%	-	4.48%
£50,000	5.20%	-	4.16%
£20,000	5.00%	-	4.00%
£10,000	5.80%	-	3.60%
£5,000	4.05%	-	3.24%
Britannia High Interest (Annually)			
£50,000	4.50%	-	3.60%
Britannia Monthly Income (Monthly)			
£50,000	4.40%	4.49%	3.52%
11:17 Cash Account (Previously known as LTD)			
£500+	3.00%	-	2.40%
£10	2.75%	-	2.20%
Brighter Savers			
£1	2.75%	2.77%	2.20%
Tiered Renewal Bond (3rd Issue)			
£100,000+	5.50%	-	4.40%
£50,000	5.25%	-	4.20%
£20,000	5.00%	-	4.00%
£1,000	4.50%	-	3.60%
Variable Rate Maturity TESSA		6.25% TAX FREE*	
Monthly Income Maturity TESSA		6.00% TAX FREE*	
Account No Longer Open To New Investors			
Tiered Renewal Bond (2nd Issue)			
£50,000+	5.25%	-	4.20%
£20,000	5.00%	-	4.00%
£1,000	4.50%	-	3.60%

Please note: Rates on all other tiers of the above accounts remain unchanged. Important note for LTD account holders: Would customers please note that this account has been renamed 11:17. *Without UK income tax deducted. **Annual return if monthly interest payments remain in the account. †Including a 0.5% bonus interest will be payable net of the applicable rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or gross, subject to the required registration CAR and net rates are illustrative only and have been rounded to two decimal places. Rates may vary but are correct at the time of going to press. FOR INFORMATION: Details of interest rates paid on other accounts your existing account is the best one for you if so, please call into your local branch where we will be happy to explain the various schemes in detail.

Britannia
The Sharing Society

Britannia Building Society
Britannia House, Leek
Staffordshire ST13 5RG

STOCK MARKETS					
FT-SE 100					
	Close	Week's chg	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3673.90	-37.2	-1.0	3857.10	3632.30
FTSE 250	4215.50	-34.5	-0.8	4568.60	4015.30
FTSE 350	1842.90	-17.9	-1.0	1945.40	1816.60
FT Small Cap	2097.13	-9.5	-0.5	2244.36	1954.06
FT All Share	1824.11	-17.3	-0.9	1924.17	1791.95
New York	5473.06	+48.2	+0.9	5778.00	5032.94
Tokyo	21124.90	-351.4	-1.6	22866.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	10705.57	-139.7	-1.3	11594.99	10204.87
Frankfurt	2470.34	-49.9	-2.0	2584.40	2253.36

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES

UK interest rates

Bank of England base rate (0-25 year gov. gilt, %)

Year	28/7/96	1 month ago
1980	5.5	5.5
1981	6.0	6.0
1982	6.5	6.5
1983	7.0	7.0
1984	7.5	7.5
1985	8.0	8.0
1986	8.5	8.5
1987	8.0	8.0
1988	7.5	7.5
1989	7.0	7.0
1990	6.5	6.5
1991	6.0	6.0
1992	5.5	5.5
1993	5.0	5.0
1994	5.5	5.5
1995	6.0	6.0
1996	7.5	7.5

1 day weekly market convention

US interest rates

Bank of England base rate (0-25 year bond, %)

Year	28/7/96	1 month ago
1980	5.5	5.5
1981	6.0	6.0
1982	6.5	6.5
1983	7.0	7.0
1984	7.5	7.5
1985	7.0	7.0
1986	6.5	6.5
1987	6.0	6.0
1988	5.5	5.5
1989	5.0	5.0
1990	4.5	4.5
1991	4.0	4.0
1992	3.5	3.5
1993	3.0	3.0
1994	2.5	2.5
1995	2.0	2.0
1996	7.0	7.0

Source: Financial Times

Money Market Rates

1 month 1 Year 3 months 6 months 1 year 2 years 3 years 5 years 10 years 15 years 20 years 25 years

5.75 6.00 7.88 8.34 7.99 8.70

5.54 6.19 6.86 7.48 7.04 6.91

0.44 1.18 3.80 7.83

3.25 3.34 6.25 6.78 6.92

Germany

Canada

Japan

Italy

France

Spain

Portugal

Greece

Belgium

Netherlands

Austria

Switzerland

Sweden

Finland

Denmark

Norway

Ireland

Luxembourg

Poland

Czech Republic

Slovak Republic

Hungary

Slovenia

Croatia

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Bosnia and Herzegovina

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GAVYN DAVIES

'On the pattern of budget deficits we have seen, Britain would have incurred huge fines under the current proposals for the stability pact. These fines would have cumulated to 4 per cent of GDP since 1992, equivalent to £30bn in today's money'

What would life have been like inside EMU?

There is a growing realisation in Britain that the decision time is looming on the question of our opt-out from the first round of economic and monetary union. Although the 1999 start date still seems a safe distance off, a series of different legislative measures will need to be introduced by next year at the latest - the "opt-in" Bill, independence for the Bank of England, a referendum Bill, and a contentious budget to hit the Maastricht convergence criteria, to name the main ones. It will also be necessary to place sterling back inside the exchange rate mechanism fairly promptly. Failure to do any of this will de facto mean that it will be impossible to be eligible for entry when the membership decisions are finalised by the EU in the spring of 1998. In other words, within a very few months of the election, the fateful decision must be taken.

One way of illustrating what a single currency might mean for the UK is simply to ask what would have happened in the recent past if we had been inside EMU. This procedure is subject to many caveats but it is interesting none the less. Let us assume that the single currency had been in existence when Britain decided to join the ERM in 1989. What would have happened if we had joined a single currency instead, with an entry rate for sterling of DM2.95 (the actual ERM entry rate)?

First, monetary policy would have been very different. The graph compares the actual behaviour of UK short-term interest rates with what might have happened to UK rates if they had instead been set by a European central bank. In order to guess what the latter might have done, we simply take a weighted average of the rates that were set by the central banks of the core ERM countries plus the UK - we deem this to be the stance of policy that would have been set

by an independent central bank for the whole of the single currency area.

Initially, in 1989/91, interest rates in the UK would have collapsed from around 15 per cent to around 10-11 per cent. With the benefit of hindsight, this might have been a good thing, since it might have dampened the recession in 1991/92. But after 1992, the opposite would have happened. British rates would not have been able to drop as fast as they did, and sterling would have been permanently stuck at DM2.95, instead of being devalued to under DM2.30. This would undoubtedly have greatly prolonged the recession, and slowed the recovery.

By now, a different phase might have been developing. If we were inside a single currency, UK base rates would now be about 3.5-4 per cent, mortgage rates would be at 4-4.5 per cent, and the consumer would no doubt be embarking on a vibrant boom. But remember that the "exchange rate" (by now only a hypothetical concept, admittedly) would still be fixed at DM2.95, so this consumer boom would be hugely fuelling the

growth of imports. Although we would no longer have to worry much about a balance of payments deficit, our economy would be very unbalanced, with consumer demand bursting ahead of manufacturing output - and there would be not a thing that policy-makers could do about it.

The lesson to be drawn from this rather artificial hypothetical exercise is that the optimal policy set for the single currency area might easily differ by a lot from that which the UK might wish to set on its own. Over time, it would be astonishing if this mismatch did not involve serious costs, though it is just conceivable that these might be worth bearing for the other economic or political advantages of the single currency (such as the boost it would give to the single market). Next, let us look at budgetary policy. The key here is to realise that the paucity of budgetary controls which will accompany a single currency will include a so-called "stability pact", the terms of which have still not been fully agreed. However, the initial German pro-

posals for this pact have been quite well received, and would involve fining countries if they allowed their budget deficits to exceed 3 per cent of gross domestic product in any given year. The fines would be large - 0.25 per cent of GDP for every 1 per cent of GDP by which the budget deficit exceeded the limit. Initially, the money would be parked in Brussels interest-free, but it would be permanently forfeited if the budget deficit remained above the limit for more than two years.

Of course, we do not know whether the existence of these fines would have altered the course of budgetary policy in the past few years. But it would certainly have been difficult, in the context of an exchange rate fixed at quite a high level, and with interest rates falling only slowly from 1992 onwards, to have avoided a run of very high budget deficits. Perhaps they would have been even higher than they have actually been, since the Lamont/Clarke tax increases would have been difficult to impose.

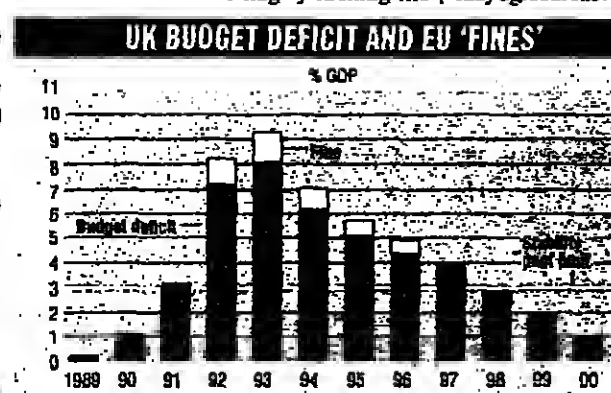
On the pattern of budget deficits which we have seen, Britain would have incurred

some huge fines under the current proposals for the stability pact, and virtually all of them would have proved permanent. These fines would have cumulated to 4 per cent of GDP since 1992, equivalent to £30bn in today's money. Even if all of this had been added to the debt burden, rather than financed by higher taxes at the time, the extra cost of the debt service alone would require an increase in the basic rate of income tax of 1p in perpetuity. These extra costs to the Exchequer would hardly be welcome under any circumstances, and certainly not during a prolonged recession.

Some people might regard these figures as too good to be true, and in one respect they are. Most discussions of the stability pact stop the story when the fines are paid, but of course the EU would not simply sit on the money. One way or another, they would find a way of recycling the funds back to the member states, though almost certainly not in the same year, or to the same states that pay the fines.

What would matter, therefore, is whether the UK were incurring the fines alone, or whether all countries were in recession together. In the latter case, refunds would probably cancel out the fines. But if a single country were to miss the targets through having a recession in isolation from the rest of the EU, the stability pact would increase the budget problem at precisely the moment this could be least afforded, and the fines would subsequently be distributed to other EU members which were not in recession.

If any of that had happened in the recession of 1992, the demands for Britain to withdraw not only from the single currency, but from the EU itself, might well have become unstoppable.



Success - as that ultimate management guru Tom Peters knows only too well - can be fleeting. No sooner had he and former McKinsey & Co colleague Robert Waterman published their best-selling *In Search of Excellence* than the companies lauded in it started to drop like flies. Indeed, in the decade between 1980 and 1990 nearly 40 per cent of the Fortune 500 ceased to exist. One only has to look through the debris of recent years to see a similar pic-

ture in Britain. So why do some fail and others survive?

According to the authors of a just published book, *The Success Culture* (Pitman), it largely comes down to "a sense of organisational purpose, where everyone understands that it is their customers who breathe life into the business".

Now, every company these days claims to be customer-focused, just as they all say that their people are their greatest asset. The reason they are not all as successful as, say, Marks & Spencer or General Electric of the US (both are featured in the book) is that they have not managed to convert this rhetoric into reality. Their

employees do not understand the objectives of the business and are not committed to achieving them. Or they do not know the part they can play. Or they are not prepared to co-operate with others to achieve the common goal.

In short, there is not the consistency of message that convinces the

outsider that the mission statement in the main reception is more than a decoration. But how does an organisation go about acquiring that vision and purpose?

Authors Malcolm Munro-Faure and Lesley Munro-Faure say it demands "a thorough, professional, planned approach to the areas which

contribute towards success". And, far from offering a single quick-fix solution, they set a whole load of "critical attributes". One or more of which need to be addressed depending on the type of industry a business is in.

Certain over-riding principles also need to be in place. For instance,

there has to be a form of leadership that knows exactly what it is trying to succeed, yet does not hold on to all the power.

Equally, pay needs to be properly linked to performance. Accordingly, at Rank Xerox, there are big bonuses but they are governed by performance in four areas - customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction, market share and return on assets.

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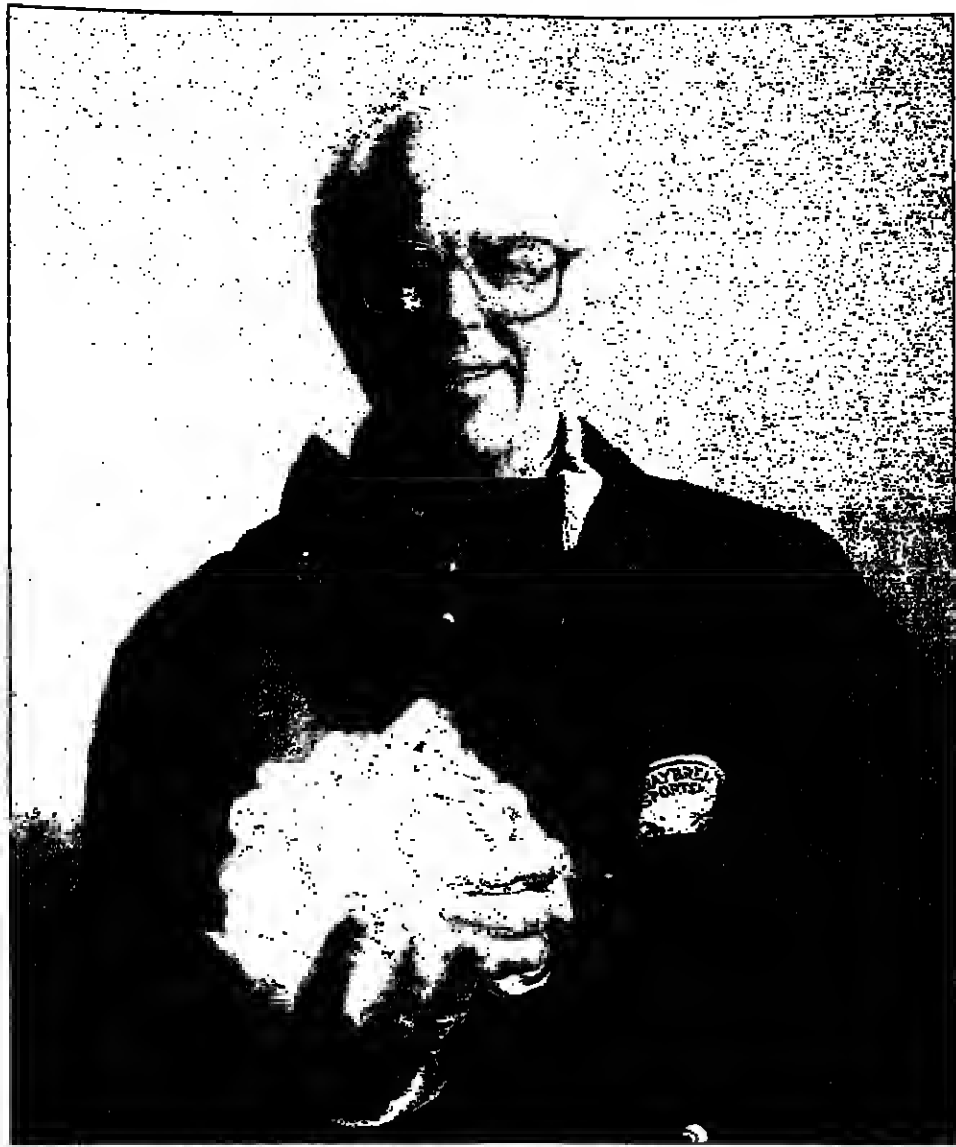
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SCIENCE

The chemical mix from which life emerged could well have come from outer space. Charles Arthur reports

A comet full of soup



Building block of life: Professor Greenberg with his model of a comet

Georg Fischer

Space scientists are now ready to abandon the long-held theory that life on Earth was generated entirely by the action of lightning on an organic "soup" of chemicals. Though this theory has held sway for decades, a new group is assembling evidence which strongly suggests that the culprits are comets that crashed into our planet about four billion years ago.

"We have realised that many of the simpler organic molecules required to lead to life are present in abundance in the nuclei of comets," according to Michael Mumma, chief scientist in extraterrestrial physics at the US space agency, Nasa. He is picking his words carefully, for while it might seem that this theory confirms the ideas propounded by the astronomers Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe – that the comets already contained living molecules such as bacteria, which seeded the waiting "soup" – in fact, it stops some way short of that.

Comets don't contain living material, says the latest thinking. They contain the essential precursors of life, including complex organic molecules such as amino acids and proteins, which are the compo-

nents of all living things. The important step of going from "pre-biotic" material – able to sustain life, but not independently capable of it – to self-replicating molecules such as RNA and DNA is firmly Earth-based, scientists say.

J Mayo Greeberg, emeritus professor of astrophysics at the University of Leiden in Germany, has been propounding this theory, with refinements, for roughly 25 years. "It has been an uphill battle," he says. "People didn't believe in the photochemistry of interstellar dust. Now, everybody does. Well, almost," he adds.

His theory contains a number of stages. First, he says, the conditions in interstellar space – with microscopic grains of dust exposed to energetic ultraviolet light from the stars – are the right conditions to form larger, more complex molecules. "We've done simulations in the laboratory and produced glycine, alanine, glycerol – several amino acids in the mixture," he says. "And when we compare the absorption spectrum of interstellar dust we find evidence that molecules similar to that are out there."

Of course, laboratory tests also simulated the creation of amino acids by lightning, like the organic "soup" theory. But

Professor Greenberg has gone further: an experiment on the Eureka space mission produced complex hydrocarbons from simple molecules when exposed to solar radiation.

That completes the first stage of the process: forming the molecules. Then, they would have to coalesce into the nuclei of comets, and then crash into planets – which, if they were young enough, might

The nuclei of comets contain the essential precursors of life

be just the place for the molecules to lead to better things. The nucleus of a comet would typically be about a kilometre wide and be a "fluffy" mixture of ice coating a combination of microscopic silicate particles and carbon. As it turns out, being "fluffy" (having many particles suspended in the mixture, rather than compressed into a hard solid) improves the chances of creating life.

"If a comet hit the Earth about four billion years ago, the atmosphere would have been

much denser," he says. "That would have slowed it down as it fell, so the chemicals inside it could have survived the impact. Some pieces could land in the oceans – which, incidentally, are almost certainly all composed of water from comets."

The new area of our research is that we've shown that these particles would be about three microns (millionths of a metre) across, and each contain about 100 molecules. Now, when they fell into the sea, our research suggests that they would be held together, and could let small molecules such as oxygen or whatever in – but the large molecules, such as the amino acids, couldn't get out. This key step, reducing the entropy (or disorder) of that system, is essential. "That means it's going to get more complex – which is the first step towards life."

Isn't that the same as the theory of Hoyle and Wickramasinghe? "No, I think they're mistaken. Bacteria couldn't survive in the conditions of space. Ultraviolet would destroy them. I think the idea of interstellar 'spores' is, well, nonsensical."

But simpler organic molecules can, and could survive striking the Earth. Each strike would produce many "seed" particles, says Professor Green-

berg: a comet is typically about a kilometre in diameter, and would contain 10 million million million groups of such particles. "The chances of things going right are pretty high," he says.

His theories are backed by observations, including recent ones of Comet Hyakutake, which passed close to the Earth earlier this year. Dr Mumma says: "There is ethane and methane in Hyakutake, and what is significant is that their relative abundance means that they didn't come from the solar nebula." In other words, it came from outer space.

What scientists like about the "cometary seed" idea is that it offers a simpler explanation of life's origins than the "lightning and soup" version. "It's simpler, and it would deliver this material to any planet," says Dr Mumma. His opinions of Professor Greenberg's work? "I would say that many of his ideas have been confirmed. But that's how it should work: we move forward by testing theories with models and observation."

Scientists are still stumped, however, on exactly how those "pre-biotic" particles could make the vital step from complexity to self-replication – the essential element of life.

Brown dwarfs, hot Jupiters or something completely different?

They can't be seen, yet bodies orbiting other stars have finally been found. But what are they? By Nigel Henbest and Heather Couper

Although the Trekkies who follow the voyages of the *USS Enterprise* have known for years that there are planets of all kinds orbiting practically every star in the galaxy, astronomers haven't been so sure. Until a year ago, every "detected" star of a planet orbiting another star turned out to be a false alarm.

Now the situation is reversed. Scarcely a month seems to pass without a new discovery being reported – and confirmed by other astronomers. At a recent international conference in Capri, Paul Butler from the Lick Observatory in California showed details of yet another planet, which showed up on his computer analysis only four hours before he flew from the US to Italy.

This new discovery, circling the star Upsilon Andromedae, is the fifth planet found by Butler and his colleague Geoff Marcy. To this total we can add a planetary system announced in June by George Gatewood, of the University of Pittsburgh, and half a dozen new results from the Swiss astronomer Michel Mayor, who last year found the first planet beyond the Solar System.

None of these researchers has actually seen a new planet. They measure how the star wobbles as an orbiting planet pulls on it. But this technique only finds the heaviest of planets. Astronomers investigating our Solar System from afar would detect how giant Jupiter is making the Sun wobble, but not discern the puny effect of the Earth.

The assumption is that where we find massive planets smaller worlds are likely too.

The first "new planet" was like Jupiter, but circling its star – 51 Pegasi – much closer in than Mercury is to the Sun. Next was 70 Virginis, which seems to have a planet much heavier than Jupiter in a distinctly oval orbit.

But are these all really planets? In Capri Michel Mayor suggested – drawing on evidence of more than a dozen systems – that where the smaller companion to a star is very massive and follows an oval orbit, it is not. Instead, it is a "brown dwarf". Such a body is born like a star, out of a lump of gas that collapses under its own gravity. But it is not massive enough to begin to shine. All it can emit is invisible infra-red radiation: hence the rather tongue-in-cheek adjective "brown" for this type of dwarf star.

Until now, astronomers have found very few brown dwarfs. The best-studied, orbiting a star called Gliese 229, has 40 times Jupiter's mass. Mayor adds five brown dwarfs from his collection of suspected planets, ranging in mass from 10 to 35 Jupiters. He also reclassifies one of the first "new planets" from the Lick Observatory, the companion to

70 Virginis, as the smallest of the brown dwarfs.

The other newly found companions are all less massive than five Jupiters, and follow circular orbits. These are almost certainly true planets, condensed from the remnants of the matter that made up their stars. Two of these planetary systems are reminiscent of our Solar System. The star 47 Ursae Majoris has a planet twice as massive as Jupiter, in an orbit that would, in the Solar System, place it between Mars and Jupiter. Lalande 21185 has a Jupiter-like planet at about the same distance, and a similar planet at Saturn's distance from the Sun.

But, to astronomers' surprise, they are outnumbered by an entirely unexpected kind of planet: the "hot Jupiter". The first discovery, 51 Pegasi, seemed to be a planet like Jupiter, but so close to its parent star that it would be literally red-hot. Originally, many astronomers thought there might be some other way to explain the observations, or at least that this was a one-off mutant of a planetary system.

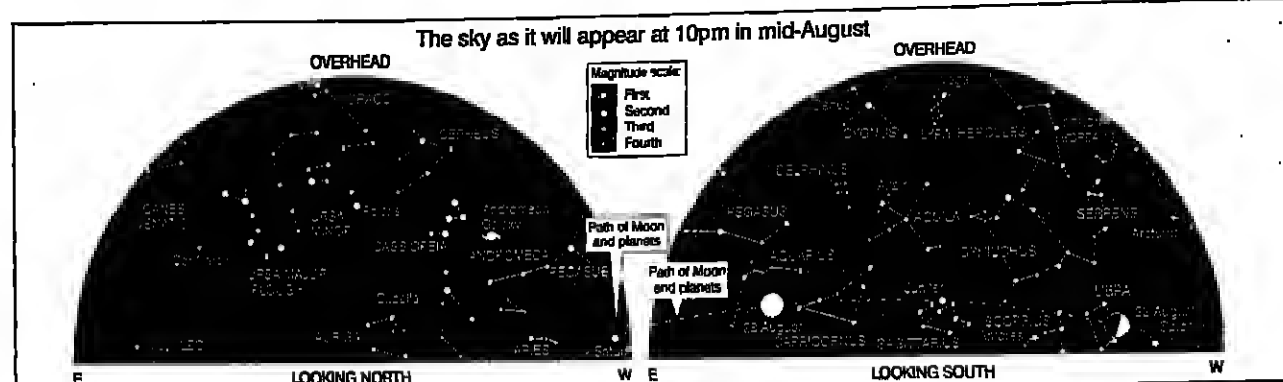
But Swiss and American teams have now turned up three more "hot Jupiters". Although evidently common,

their origin is a complete puzzle. Theory suggests that only small planets should condense from the original dusty disc this close to the parent star – just as we find the small planets Mercury, Venus and Earth closest to the Sun.

The hot Jupiters were probably born much further out, but spiralled inwards as they ploughed their way through the remaining dust and gas in the original disc. But, in that case, they must have moved 99 per cent of the way from the original orbit to the central star, and then – inexplicably – stopped with just 1 per cent of the journey to complete.

If so, that bodes ill for finding planets similar to the Earth: the massive planets would have driven any smaller worlds ahead of them into the central star. Perhaps we should look elsewhere for little green men – not on a planet at all, but on the surface of a rocky moon orbiting a hot Jupiter. The images of Jupiter's moons now coming back from the *Galileo* spacecraft might be our nearest glimpses of the landscapes that other species in the Universe call home.

The night sky in August
Brilliant Jupiter dominates the evening sky, low down in the constellation Sagittarius, which rather resembles a teapot in shape. To the right lies Antares, a red giant star marking the heart of Scorpius (the scorpion). Saturn rises in the east around 10pm. Although fainter than Jupiter, Saturn is unmistakable as it currently lies in a



region of dim stars. Venus, the brightest of all planets, is rising about 2am, as the Morning Star. It reaches its greatest brilliance on 17 August. If you watch carefully you may see it right through sunrise, and get the rare opportunity of seeing a planet in the bright blue daytime sky. Around the middle of August,

look out for the annual shower of shooting stars that seems to rain down from the direction of the constellation Perseus. These Perseid meteors are debris from a comet, burning up. This is a particularly good year for observing the Perseids, because around the time of maximum the moon will not be around to

drown out the fainter meteors. You'll see most meteors after midnight on 11 August, but there'll be plenty of Perseids for a few days either side.

Diary (all times BST)
August 6 6.26am moon at last quarter.
11-12 Maximum level of

the shower of Perseid meteors.

14 8.34am new moon.
20 Venus at greatest western elongation.
21 Mercury at greatest eastern elongation.
22 4.37am moon at first quarter.
28 6.53pm full moon.

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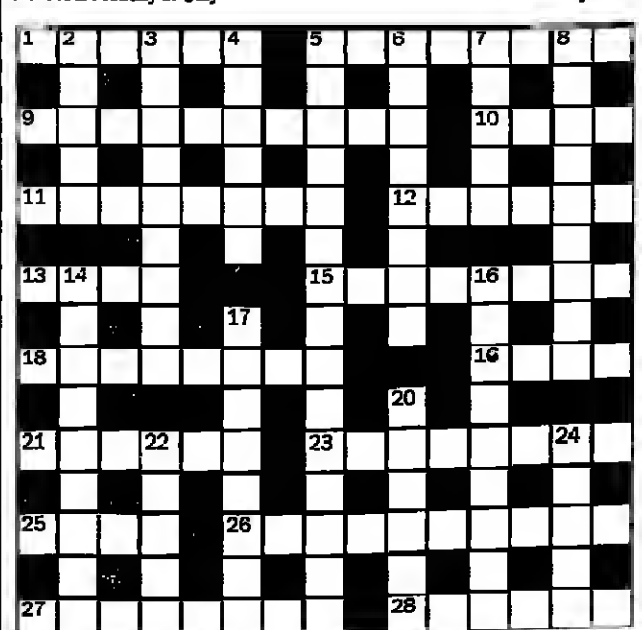
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 - Watch it capture attention (4,4)
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 - The French end long-standing record (9)
 - No doubt time for youth leader to give guarantee (6)
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 - Business application (8)
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 - Subdue remaining force (9)
 - Bird in a poplar he disturbed (9)
 - Unload sack (9)
 - Many heading over before European game (8)
 - Novel architectural style? (6)
 - Person finished by having an advantage (3-2)
 - Number score for music group (5)